



October 2008

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# OBAMA WINS

## But only if you help him

By Steven J. Moss

If President-elect Barack Obama runs the country as well as he ran the Democratic National Convention (DNC), America will be blessed with peace, unity, substantive dialogue on pressing national and international issues, with no small amount of joyful partying along the way. The memory of the August convention was almost extinguished the day it ended by Senator John McCain's deeply cynical choice of Sarah Palin as his Vice Presidential running mate. But the convention's show of unity, not just by Bill and Hillary Clinton, but by a deep bench of Democratic governors, senators, and common folk, many of whom were lifelong Republications, should not be forgotten.

As in years past, DNC-goers included a diversity of ethnicities, races and sexual-orientations, reflecting a nation in which European-Americans will represent less than half the population by mid-century. The DNC stood in stark contrast to the Republican National Convention – which essentially served as Palin's coming-out party – in which virtually the only person of color to be seen was the McCain's Bangladesh-born adopted daughter. Gays, who were certainly present, remained firmly in the closet or, if *The Daily Show* can be believed, partied in nearby bathroom stalls.

The Democrat's rainbow is notable. America is a nation

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## Potrero Terrace and Annex to be Redeveloped

### San Francisco Housing Authority Reaches Tentative Agreement with Bridge Housing Corporation

By Andrea de Brito

As the last few children were picked up at Starr King Elementary School, roughly 40 residents of the adjacent public housing complex, a handful of developers, San Francisco Housing Authority and other City officials, and a few concerned neighbors filled the school's small cafeteria last month. The event marked Bridge Housing Corporation's first community meeting with Potrero Terrace and Annex residents since the Housing Authority entered into an agreement to negotiate a redevelopment plan with the nonprofit housing developer earlier in September. Community outreach

is integral to Bridge's way of doing business, explained president Carol Galante; the public housing residents were skeptical.

The plan to redevelop Potrero Terrace and Potrero Annex emerged from the City's HOPE-San Francisco initiative, an alternative to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) now nearly extinct HOPE VI program. HOPE VI, which over a decade and a half period financed a number of public housing redevelopment projects in San Francisco and throughout the country, was extinguished during the Bush Administration.

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## Potrero Hill Nun Works for Peace and Justice

By Sarah Marloff

Born and raised in San Francisco's Richmond District, in 1943 Kathleen Healy joined the Presentation Sisters – a Catholic Order founded in Cork, Ireland in 1776. She was 17 years old. Now 82 years young, and a Potrero Hill resident for roughly half her life, Sister Kathleen worked for St. Teresa's of Avila Church for 65 years. The Presentation Sisters rent a small house from Lester Zeidman and Kayren Hudiburgh, The Good Life Store owners. "They're great people. It's a wonderful store; something well done," said Sister Kathleen.

Sister Kathleen joined the Presentation Sisters because she was passionate about helping people but couldn't "stand the sight of blood," making working as a nurse impossible. She's spent much of her

life as an educator, first at St. Agnes Catholic School as an elementary and high school teacher, and later as the principal of the Haight Street school during the "flower child time." From 1968 to 1974 she served as St. Teresa's school principal.

"Potrero Hill wasn't as yuppified as it is now. It was a working class neighborhood. A mixture economically and racially; and that was always very important to me as principal." But lack of revenues ultimately undid St. Teresa's school, which closed in 1974 due to low enrollment. "Poor people can't afford to pay tuition, and you need money to pay teachers. It was very sad...Potrero was always connected with Bayview, the 'really bad place.' Parents used to be afraid to send their kids over to

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## Obama Wins

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of interest groups, consisting of collections of individuals fighting for civil rights, better care for war veterans, reproductive choice and other heartfelt issues. We dream 300 million individual dreams, which are conjured by African-American women who fled Hurricane Katrina, World War II veterans who liberated Nazi concentration camps, and young women and men whose mothers slept on the floor when they grew-up because they couldn't afford, or didn't have room for, another bed; whose sacrifices enabled them to attend college. Sometimes these dreams collide, or change shape as a result of our interactions. Other times they're morphed into nightmares by harsh realities or ghost stories told by power-hungry politicians to scare us into jumping into their arms.

Significant public policy is created when multiple dreams find a way to dance together. This election is about whose dreams – or night terrors – and which dreamers, will become America's dreams for the next four years.

I'm sleeping with the Democrats. It's the Democrats who have the courage to tell us that, when they think of their "beautiful wife" that "the thought of denying anyone that joy is repulsive." It's the Democrats who know that sexuality is not something to be hidden in shame, but celebrated: "If your sexuality is not a big deal to you, you have my sympathy." It's the Democrats who nominated an African-American family man as their presidential candidate, prompting the 85,000 people present – and tens of millions more listening or watching elsewhere – to cheer wildly for a black man who isn't a rap star or a football player. It's the Democrats who energized a Hispanic boy, upon seeing my freshly-minted DNC t-shirt a day after the convention, to walk up and ask me, wonder in his eyes, "Did you see Obama? And the Vice President?"

America can continue to act like a solitary tyrannosaurs, terrorizing other nations. Or we can revert back to being more akin to a brontosaurus, traveling in herds, gently pushing aside the "evildoers." It can be

morning in America again, a morning different from those advertised during the Reagan years, in which hope has that only-in-America tang of can-do optimism, tolerance, and eager patience for the future. Or it can be our late-afternoon, in which China stuffs us full of cheap-plastic goods, which we excrete into the oceans and landfills; Saudi Arabia mainlines us oil; and Russia treats us like we treat others: with disdain, disrespect, and arrogance.

The Democratic campaign for the presidency is not without its weaknesses. Many of Barack Obama's promises are more hype than hope. He promises to "end our dependence on oil from the Middle East" within ten years, which is probably not possible, even if as president he taps "...our natural gas reserves, invest[s] in clean coal technology, and find ways to safely harness nuclear power...and... invest[s] \$150 billion...in affordable, renewable sources of energy – wind power and solar power and the next generation of biofuels." He wants to provide "...every child a world-class education," even though federal spending on kindergarten through 12th grade is currently miniscule. He promises to ensure that all Americans have "...affordable, accessible health care," when national expenditures on medical care already exceed \$2 trillion. And he wants to pay for these ambitious programs "...by closing corporate loopholes and tax havens that don't help America grow" and going "...through the federal budget, line by line, eliminating programs that no longer work and making the ones we do need work better and cost less..." an exercise that every president since Carter has engaged in, with modest results.

"For Pete's sake, who can believe all of that?" retorted one Republican after hearing Obama's convention speech. But believers had a different response:

"How was it?," asked one elderly gentleman to another, on the bus ride from the stadium back to Denver after the speech.

"Fantastic!"

"It was unbelievable!"

"Yeah, I'm going to go home and check to see what drug I accidentally took."

Presidential candidates always spin tall tales. But the characters in

these stories matter. Is the tale being told about a past in which America stood tall against all adversaries, everyone had a job, and the bad things visited on Native Americans, African-Americans, and many others never happened, because, in these stories, these people never actually existed? Or is it about a future in which smiling children run through tall grass to the finest educational institutions ever seen?

Obama is at least facing in the right direction. In may take two decades to cut our oil consumption in half, but if we get there it'll be time well spent. Garnering broad acceptance of, and taking specific actions towards, the notion that every child deserves quality education, and every American should have access to decent health care, would be revolutionary in an era in which upper income parents spend more than \$32 billion on private elementary and secondary schools, and one in five Americans have no health care insurance at all. And many of Obama's goals are obtainable and necessary. He wants to change federal bankruptcy laws, which under the Bush Administration were altered to tilt heavily towards credit card companies and away from individual rights. He wants to provide "...families with paid sick days and better family leave," and calls for a national service corps: "...we will keep our promise to every young American – if you commit to serving your community or your country, we will make sure you can afford a college education."

Perhaps most importantly, he'll end the war in Iraq, and turn America's attention to creating responsible diplomacy. "You don't defeat a terrorist network that

operates in eighty countries by occupying Iraq. And I will restore our moral standing, so that America is once again that last, best hope for all who are called to the cause of freedom, who long for lives of peace, and who yearn for a better future."

To follow any of these dreams Obama has to win the election. To do so he needs your help. "Wake up, America," shouted Dennis Kucinich, the lefty U.S. Representative from Ohio and perennial presidential candidate, at the DNC, "Wake up!" Wake up, and get up. If you have a relative or friend in a state in which the election is likely to be decided – Oregon, Nevada, Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, Missouri, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, or New Hampshire – call them up and encourage them to vote Democratic. If you've got the time and resources, spend a week or two in one of these states helping to campaign. Or just show up at your local Democratic Party headquarters and start licking envelopes, making telephone calls, and sending email messages. And of course, on election day, vote, and bring a friend or a relative with you.

With a cratered economy and an unpopular war there's no reason the Obama-Biden ticket shouldn't win by a landslide. The election is ours to lose; a loss we cannot afford. "This election isn't about me, it's about you. Change doesn't come from Washington, it comes to Washington," shouted Obama. Let's shout back, loud and clear, that we want that change, and we want it now.

## way off main

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# Too Many Initiatives, Not Enough Time

Massive financial melt-downs, huge federal and state budget deficits, Middle Eastern Wars, and a vice-presidential candidate with the least amount of experience in United States history: it's hard not to feel like we're living in a period of governmental collapse. Amidst this public sector apocalypse comes local ballot initiatives A through V, along with a dozen state initiatives. It's nearly impossible for a single individual to develop well-informed opinions about this many proposed laws, particularly in a period in which most of our political attention is focused on perhaps the most important presidential race in the last half-century.

Normally the *View* would provide recommendations on how to vote on the myriad of candidates and initiatives on the ballot. Unfortunately, this election your small community newspaper doesn't have the capacity to examine the choices to a level that would merit comprehensive endorsements. We encourage you to look to trusted friends and local civic groups, particularly the Potrero Hill Democratic Club, for ballot advice.

The *View* isn't opinion-less, though: some candidates, and initiatives, are too attractive to pass unremarked, while others run against our basic values. Here's our picks:

## Candidates

United States President/Vice President: Barack Obama/Joseph Biden.

United States Congress, District 8: Nancy Pelosi.

State Senate, District 3: Mark Leno.

State Assembly, District 13: Tom Ammiano.

**San Francisco Propositions**  
A, San Francisco General Hospital Bonds: Yes.

C, Prohibiting City Employees from Serving on Boards: No.

D, Pier 70 Waterfront District Development: Yes.

E, Changing the Number of Signatures to Recall City Officials: No.

J, Historic Preservation Commission: Yes.

M, Changing the Residential Rent Ordinance to Prohibit Specific Acts: No.

## California Propositions

1A, High Speed Rail Bonds: Yes.

4, Waiting Period/Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy: No.

8, Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry: No.

Although the *View* is inclined to endorse Proposition H, the San Francisco Clean Energy Act, the initiative is sufficiently contentious for us to leave best judgments to our wise readers. On the pro side, the initiative would put in a place a process that could lead to cost-effective municipalization of our electric distribution system, which is currently controlled by monopolist Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). As proponents suggest, publicly-owned utilities tend to offer better rates and more user-friendly customer service than investor-owned utilities. On the con side the City has more pressing priorities than taking on PG&E, which will sink tens of millions of dollars into stopping a public takeover. An effective public power campaign requires a thoughtful strategy and a unified political leadership to succeed, neither of which is extant. Still, it's hard not to want to keep the possibility of a public take-over of our electric distribution system in play.

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed the informative article on Starr King Open Space in the July issue. I live on Kansas Street, and have been there numerous times when walking my dogs or to enjoy the view, although the height and type of grasses make it risky for dogs during the summer and poor drainage can be a problem during winter.

Too bad there was no mention in the article of the man who was the source of the Open Space's name, Reverend Thomas Starr King, who was quite a player in the history of San Francisco and California. He is memorialized in several places, including his burial site at the Unitarian Universalist Church, which he served during the Civil War.

Mike McGirr  
Kansas Street

Dear Editor:

I write to thank you for the article, "What's in a Street Name?" by Sarah Marloff that appeared in the July *View*. As a retired San Francisco State University geography professor who still occasionally leads walking tours on Potrero Hill, I enjoyed reading about the loss of county names replaced by number streets.

I have two questions, and one possible answer regarding the state streets: Has anybody found a rationale for the order of the streets? So far as I can tell, the order is random: not alphabetical, not chronological, not geographic. Though with the exception of Utah, all the streets on Potrero and nearby in the Mission are named for states in existence in the 1860s (yet Massachusetts, Ohio, and Virginia were not used as names).

Why, in the middle of the state streets, do we get De Haro, named, I think, for a Potrero resident? I believe the Wackenruder Map from 1861 gives a clue. At the extreme eastern edge of Potrero there's a short Delaware Street. Then, on the same map, between Carolina and Rhode Island streets, another Delaware. This Delaware is now De Haro. When they discovered a second Delaware it was renamed De Haro. This is just a guess, but it makes sense to me. Ironically, San Francisco no longer has a Delaware Street. Current maps show Maryland Street as the easternmost street on Potrero.

I faithfully read the *View* each month, picking it up at the St. Francis Fountain at 24th and York streets. I lived on the Hill from 1966 to 1970, when I bought my home in Bernal Heights with a superb view of Potrero.

Max C. Kirkeberg  
Peralta Avenue

View readers who may have answers to these questions are invited to write in - Editor

Dear Editor:

David Matsuda has written some excellent first-hand accounts about the war in Iraq over the last year. Now, San Franciscans have an opportunity to do something about ending this illegal and immoral war; by voting for peace on two initiatives on our ballot this November.

The first is Proposition U, which is a simple declaration that Congress "should vote against any further funding for the deployment of United States Armed Forces in Iraq, with the exception of funds specifically earmarked to provide for their safe and orderly withdrawal." No matter who gets elected, we must hold our politicians' feet to the fire to end this war once and for all.

The second is Proposition V, the last one on the ballot. The school board is in the process of phasing-out and replacing the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC); The Pentagon and its allies put the initiative on the ballot to try to reverse the board's courageous decision to get the military out of our schools. If we don't want the politicians to use our money for illegal wars, we don't want the high schools as recruiting devices for future Iraqs and Afghanistans.

Let's vote peace in November.  
Doris Brin Walker Roberson

Dear Editor:

A friend has been sharing recent copies of the *Potrero View* with me. You're doing a super job of covering the community, and the paper looks great.

I've enjoyed your "Publisher's View" columns, especially September's. My dad, a 1932 graduate of the University of Illinois, School of Mechanical Engineering, kept a little brown notebook in the glove compartments of our 1955 Chevrolet and 1962 Chevrolet Impala. Like your dad, he kept notes about gallons purchased and miles traveled. He was an amazing man, much like your dad and grandfather. Thoughtful. Careful about money. Not seduced by consumerism. He kept his 1962 Impala until a year before he died in 1996.

John Gollin  
Publisher  
Northside Publications, Inc.

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# Short Cuts

## October is Potrero Hill

It's autumn on the Hill, and time to celebrate our little community! In addition to shopping locally, join your neighbors at one of the many gatherings taking place this month, including the **Potrero Hill Festival** on October 18, **Farley's Pet Parade**, and **History Night**, both on October 25. See the calendar section for more details...and speaking of shopping locally, October is Eat Local Month, [www.eatlocalsf.org](http://www.eatlocalsf.org), during which the bounty of all things edible produced within 150 miles of San Francisco will be celebrated. Participating restaurants, which include **Baraka**, are offering daily specials, made with 100 percent local ingredients, throughout the month...And did you know that \$100 spent at a home-grown merchant returns \$63 back to the local economy, compared to only \$43 when you shop at a chain? If San Franciscans shifted just 10 percent of our purchases from out-of-town based vendors to neighborhood establishment more than 1,300 jobs would be created.

## Purse Snatches

A rash of run-away robberies has shaken up Mission and Potrero Hill residents. One former Hill resident had her purse snatched at Café Flore, on Market Street, despite being surrounded by dozens of people, several of whom unsuccessfully chased the robber, a middle-aged African-American woman. A few weeks later two adults watching over three toddlers had their bags grabbed by a gaggle of teenagers at the **Potrero Hill Playground** on Arkansas Street, with a one year old pushed down to create a diversion during the theft. Victims in both incidents lost their keys, significant amounts of cash, and their credit cards and driver's licenses. While some parents are now avoiding the playground, others

think it's time to make it safe for all Hill residents. According to **Stacey Bartlett**, "...we cannot wall ourselves off from the community. We need to help kids who don't have positive direction for their energy by letting them know when they are crossing the boundaries. This is certainly easier to do when the numbers are in your favor...we should all try to go to this park more rather than less. There is safety in numbers and if more of us are there, we can positively influence the situation rather than running away from it...Please don't give up on the nicest little park in our midst." It doesn't help matters that the **San Francisco Recreation and Park Department** has halted youth and adult activities at the **Potrero Hill Recreation Center** on Sundays. This is a time for openings, not closings!

## Hell's Breakfast

There are, unfortunately, worse things than purse snatchings. Last month 19-year-old Caprisha Green, mother of a one-year-old daughter, was gunned down on the 1000 block of Connecticut Street. Police found Green, who'd been sitting outside her apartment with several friends, an hour and a half before midnight with multiple gunshot wounds...and speaking of murder, roughly 2,000 Hells Angels passed through town to mourn San Francisco chapter president Mark "Papa" Guardado, who was shot down after a barroom brawl. Given the chapter's Dogpatch location, many of the Angels dined at **Just for You**. Dressed in full regalia of leather jackets, vests and "Dirty White Boy" patches, the bikers were polite, but tended towards intense ice-cold eye contact, and didn't tip the wait staff. Whatever crimes the Angels may commit, what could be worse than not tipping hardworking service people?

## Restaurant Expansions

**Piccino's** has opened a coffee bar a few doors down from its restaurant on 22nd Street. Open seven days a week, the expanded location offers French-press brew, scones, frittatas, muffins, and cookies for those needing to grab a quick take-out on the way to work or the train...Rather than opening a Delfina-style pizza place at **Thinkers Café**, as was reported in last month's *View*, the **Chez Papa** people will split **Couleur Café** into two businesses, one of which will be a pizzeria.

## New Park

Last month the **San Francisco Redevelopment Agency** presented their preliminary concepts for Mariposa Park, a new green space planned for the north side of Mariposa Street between the 280 Freeway, Minnesota and Fourth streets. Because the space is next to and below a freeway and on/off ramp, and sandwiched between the CalTrain tracks and the proposed **University of California, San Francisco** hospital, park design must address noise and air pollution, vehicular traffic and multi-user needs. Possible ways to creatively use the unique space include creating a climbing wall at the southwest end; developing a pedestrian/bike bridge over the train tracks, next to the north side of Mariposa Street; installing a bike skills area; recreating the original Mission Bay shoreline in an engaging way and creating a Mission Bay historic educational element; re-introducing native plants to the site; using less 'hard' landscape architecture in favor of a more natural, native landscape solution; and creating free-play/multi use spaces where park goers can play informal games, meet and greet, picnic, and have small gatherings. To provide your thoughts or learn about future meetings contact Catherine. [Reilly@sfgov.org](mailto:Reilly@sfgov.org).

## Boo!

City leaders are moving the October 31 Halloween Party, historically held in the Castro, to a parking lot near **AT&T Park**. However, after initial plans for a block buster event quickly fell through, the party has settled down into a free kid-centric affair in the early evening, which will morph into a modest pop music festival for adults as the witching hour draws nigh. If New Orleans – a town not known for its governmental competence – can manage Jazz Fest and Mardi Gras why can't the City that used to know how to host something similar? For information about what San Francisco can offer check-out [www.sfhalloweenfestival.com](http://www.sfhalloweenfestival.com) ...speaking of scary, within weeks of the grand opening of Day Park in Noe Valley, the renovation of which took more than two long years, parents found that workers had dumped toxic paint and solvents into the sand box. The City responded by closing the

park so that it could be checked for environmental hazards, the previous existence of which is what caused the park to be renovated in the first place. Day Park has long been called "Dirty Park" by the crew of nannies who frequent it from throughout the southern half of San Francisco, due to its play equipment's filthy condition. The moniker seems as apt as ever...on a less frightening note, the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department has awarded a contract to **Sean W. Smith Engineering** to renovate the **Franklin Square** playground. Let's hope this time no skeletons are buried.

## Proposed Construction

A four story, (in front) and 50 feet high five story, with garage, (in back) building has been proposed for the empty lot at the corner of 19th and Mississippi streets. If you have an opinion about the proposed application for a Discretionary Review contact 246.8855; [tim.frye@sfgov.org](mailto:tim.frye@sfgov.org) ...A \$204 million transit system maintenance shop and storage yard opened last month at 25th and Illinois streets. The yard includes an 180,000-square-foot maintenance yard and 13-acres of storage space. The facility will handle roughly half the City's rail fleet, and should prompt improved service on the T-Third line...Texas-based Darling International has reached an agreement with the Port of San Francisco to build a biodiesel plant at Pier 92. Darling's existing rendering plant, which creates tallow from processing byproducts from dairies, meatpacking facilities, butcher shops, restaurants, is the port's largest exporter. The tallow can be used to make biodiesel; upward of 10 million gallons a year. As Homer Simpson might say, while filling up his car and his stomach, "one for you, one for me..."

## World Doesn't End

The world didn't get sucked into a black hole after the first beam of protons were shot along a 17-mile-long racetrack known as the Large Hadron Collider, located 300 feet beneath the Swiss-French border outside Geneva. Costing \$8 billion, the collider is the most expensive scientific experiment in history. It's designed to accelerate protons to energies of seven trillion volts – seven times the energy of the next largest machine in the world, Fermilab's Tevatron – and smash them together. The collider will eventually reach temperatures and energies equivalent to those at a trillionth of a second after the Big Bang, causing some scientists to worry that it could spit out a black hole or some other phenomenon that could end the Earth or universe. No word from God yet reacting to humankind's latest attempt to mimic the deity, though the collider did break down shortly after its coming out party.

## San Francisco Goes Solar



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# Be Aware When the Rubber Hits the Road

By Chris Long

You might spot one from time to time if you're really looking, but unfortunately many of us notice them after it's too late, when we hear that costly thud, followed, perhaps, by our favorite series of swear words. As any San Francisco driver, skateboarder or bicyclist knows, Bay Area roads suffer from an assortment of potholes, defects, cracks and other dangers. A casual internet search suggests that potholes are an increasingly hot issue in the City. A San Francisco potholes Flickr.com group has 10 members; Yelp.com has an entry for "Potholes on Divisadero Street," and Youtube.com features a video called "Potholes of San Francisco."

To judge road conditions, public works officials refer to the pavement condition index, or PCI. Roads with PCI under 70 are tagged for repair. San Francisco's roads have an average PCI of 64, down from 78 in 1988. The 2005 The Road Information Project (TRIP) Report, published by a nonprofit organization that conducts annual road reports and works to improve road conditions, lists the San Francisco-Oakland area as the nation's fifth worst area in terms of road repair. Last summer in a talk with SFGate's C.W. Nevius about the City's growing pothole problem, Department of Public Works (DPW) director Ed Reiskin said, "It's true... Over the years the City has not maintained the standards on its streets."

Potholes are caused by several factors, including seepage, faulty road construction, aging pavement and overweight vehicles. They are a serious threat to an automobile's tire and suspension systems, and pose safety hazards to bicyclists and skaters. They even threaten San Francisco's more than 900 mile-

long sewer system, as collapsed potholes are a frequent cause of sewer failure. During the first half of this decade San Franciscans suffered an estimated \$4.5 million in car damage and injuries sustained by pedestrians and bicyclists due to street defects and road debris.

Local tire expert Tom Ryan is a native San Franciscan whose family dates to the Gold Rush era. "I used to go down to Dayton after school and unload boxes," he said nostalgically, referring to the long-defunct Dayton Tires warehouse that was located at the corner of 9th and Harrison streets. As the owner of Leo's Tire & Brake, situated between 19th and 20th streets on Third Street, Ryan sees more than his fair share of tire damage. Originally founded in 1963 by World War II veteran Leo Caravelli, Leo's boasts 4.5 stars on Yelp.com. Ryan has serviced privately- and commercially-owned automobiles for more than 40 years. He says that tire damage is often preventable, caused from simple oversights, like driving directly over potholes and running over glass while parking. "Basically (drivers should) just be aware, especially for debris besides potholes," he said. Ryan also cautioned against broken metal bands that line many San Francisco curbs. "When that band gets damaged or sticks out, it'll run right through the sidewall of the tire, and that's not repairable." When asked his opinion about the state of San Francisco's roads, Ryan didn't have much to say other than he thought the City "had a budget for that."

The San Francisco DPW is responsible for maintaining the City's roads through its Street and Sewer Repair program, which patches potholes, depressions, bumps and other defects. In 2006, District 7

Supervisor Sean Elsbernd secured \$15 million for road repairs. According to DPW communications spokesperson Christine Falvey, the department repaired 18,204 roadway defects in fiscal year 2006/7, and 11,000 defects in 2007/8. "This fiscal year, DPW will have spent \$36.4 million on its roadway resurfacing program and public works will have paved more than 300 blocks by the end of the fiscal year," said Falvey, in response to a *Fog City Journal* inquiry.

A separate capital budget also helps to repair individual potholes, Reiskin said. "Our pothole program is primarily funded through the City's capital budget," Reiskin reported. "For fiscal year 2007-08 we have \$1.68 million for this program, which essentially funds two crews plus materials."

Private organizations also try to address the pothole issue. San Francisco Bicycle Coalition (SFBC) Lane Stewards conduct road hazard sweeps on the first Saturday of each month, during which they remove debris and mark trouble areas. Potholes encircled in neo-green paint mean that SFBC has marked road damage. A 2006 SFBC survey gave San Francisco a D- grade in terms of pavement quality.

DPW estimates that more than 2,000 street segments are currently in need of repair, with a price tag of roughly \$400 million. One of the more damaged streets, Cesar Chavez, is scheduled to be repaired and improved in the winter 2010.

To report a pothole, call 3-1-1, 282.5326, or send an email with no attachments to: [potholes@sfdpw.org](mailto:potholes@sfdpw.org).



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18th Annual

## Pet Fest

and Costume Contest

to benefit the Potrero Hill Library



Saturday, October 25

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# Potrero Hill Company Relies on Tibetan Immigrants to Paint the City

By Herman Wong

Yeshe Sopa came to the United States when his wife won the immigration lottery. Namgyal Tsering staved off loneliness and worry when he first arrived in America by reading about past immigrants. Though Karma Yarphel finds life in the United States challenging, it's better than the one he left behind.

Sopa, Tsering and Yarphel are among the 20 ethnic Tibetans that make up nearly a third of Potrero Hill-based Everest Waterproofing and Restoration's workforce. Everest's president, Keith Goldstein, has a long history of relying on Tibetan immigrants, beginning in the early-1990s when his previous company, Gitane Painting, sponsored two Tibetan refugees for immigration. "It's been a very enriching experience to have Tibetans work for me," said Goldstein, whose interest in Buddhism and Nepal led to his involvement with the Tibetan community. "They have a very pleasant perspective on things."

Often referred by one of the 1,500 Tibetan-Americans living in the Bay Area, Tibetans frequently arrive at Everest — which paints and repairs building exteriors — without prior construction experience and unsteady English proficiency. At five foot eight inches, Sopa, 44 years old, has a round, dark face and a wisp of a mustache and beard. In 1992 his wife Lhamo won the lottery: she received one of 1,000 U.S. immigrant visas granted to Tibetans refugees living in India and Nepal, courtesy of the 1990 Immigration Act. However, the visa only allowed passage for one person, who had to have secure employment in the United States. The family

would be allowed to follow later.

With a two-month-old son to raise in Pokhara, Nepal, Sopa and his wife picked the best parent to stay behind. "We decided I would go first since a dad would have a hard time handling the kid," Sopa said. In 1993 he left for America armed with a job offer from Goldstein, brokered by the U.S.-Tibet Resettlement Project, paying \$7.50 an hour, one of the highest wages of the Tibetans making that trip. It took Sopa's family five years to work their way through the immigration process.

The work at Gitane Painting was difficult at first. Sopa had never seen a painter's hand roller, and had only used paint mixed from red mud or chalk. He stumbled along, one of only two Tibetans on staff, trying to learn his new profession and language. "I spoke little English and it was hard to pick up what they were saying," Sopa said.

By 2003, when Tsering arrived, Goldstein and his crew had moved to Everest, which had hired more Tibetans, who in turn trained new immigrant recruits. But while Tsering had an easier start on the job, the 43 year old with the gaunt face and puffy center-parted hair of a 1970's movie star wasn't initially convinced that he should stay in the United States. At the invitation of some American friends, Tsering visited New York for a short vacation in 2002. While touring Ellis Island and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Dharamsala, India resident thought about his family's future. As a general manager of a vocational school, Tsering knew that his three children would have limited career opportunities in India. "I thought I

needed a change in life," Tsering said. "It was a tough decision, but I was mentally prepared for this."

His friends agreed to sponsor him, and Tsering moved to Berkeley to stay with fellow former co-workers from the vocational school. Longing for his family, he frequented the local library, reading about Chinese and Japanese immigrants. Their history of adversity comforted him. "Compared to them my situation is much better," Tsering said. "When I read about their hardship, I feel everything for me has gone smoothly, like getting a job. It encouraged me to face my everyday life."

For Yarphel, trying times continue seven years after his arrival. A friend's friend sponsored his immigration in 2001, allowing him to escape Nepal, where work was scarce and a day's wage couldn't buy a night out to dinner. In the United States the 33 yearold worked in a restaurant before coming to Everest in 2003. "We didn't have anything when we got here," Yarphel said. "If I didn't have a job I'd be homeless." But life in America has been challenging. Yarphel worries about the rainy season from December to April, when work at Everest dries up, and he has taken a part-time job at a restaurant, sometimes working seven days a week. "Here life is very hard," Yarphel said. "I spend everything on rent, food, and PG&E."

After a rocky start Sopa improved his English, and ultimately ascended to foreman in 1997. He now owns a two-bedroom house in Berkeley, which he shares with his wife, son, and American-born daughter. "I have a great life," Sopa said. "It's better than Nepal. If you work hard there's opportunity." Tsering became one of 14 foremen at Everest a year after starting at the company, and reunited with his family soon after. They now live in El Cerrito. He said he appreciates the opportunities available to his children, two of whom are studying nursing. "As long as you abide by the rules of the country, there is no one here who can trouble you," Tsering said. Yarphel's wife and nine-year-old son reached the United States six months ago; they live in Oakland. "I make money. I take care of my family. They are happy so I'm happy too," he said, though without much enthusiasm.

Of the three men only Sopa seemed comfortable talking about his ancestral home. "I feel disappointed that a lot of the world doesn't support Tibet," he said. Tsering and Yarphel have little to say about the topic, worried that their relatives back home would be punished for any outspokenness. Yet Tsering hopes to see Tibet again, which he left when he was nine years old. "As long as I live, I want to go back and serve the people," he said.



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Denise and Jonathan Todd (J.T.) Gottlieb married on Monday, September 1, 2008 in Los Angeles. Gottlieb was released from state prison a few years ago after serving 25 years. Debbie Findling and Steven Moss (right) met Gottlieb, who now works on criminal justice issues, while teaching at Patton College's San Quentin State Prison college program.

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# Construction Company President Mixes Business with Commitment to Community

By Herman Wong

Keith Goldstein's first trip to Nepal in 1986 tested his senses: pedestrians walked side by side with cows on streets crammed with fruit stands and temples. Chants and the pungent smell of curry pierced the air. Then something grabbed his attention. "I looked up and I could see the Himalayas in the distance," he said. The sight would leave a lasting impression. When Goldstein started his construction company on Potrero Hill's Missouri Street in 1999 he named it Everest Waterproofing and Restoration. The company has more than doubled in size since then, growing from 30 employees to 70, with an expected \$10 million in revenues this year, up from \$8.5 million in 2007.

A native of London, England, Goldstein followed an American girlfriend to Philadelphia in 1974. He cruised across the country in a convertible blue and white Volkswagen camper, landing in San Francisco in 1975. "The day I drove across the bridge I fell in love with the place," said Goldstein, 58, who is tall with a Buddha's round belly and speaks in a deep baritone.

Goldstein's first job in the City was painting houses for \$2 an hour; he's been in the painting business ever since. With a couple of partners he founded Gitane Painting, which successfully completed a number of high profile projects, including at City Hall. Everest specializes in waterproofing building exteriors, including cleaning walls, sealing cracks, and painting. The company has completed a number of significant projects, such as at the historic 355 Buena Vista East condominium, formerly St. Joseph's Hospital, which appears in Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo*.

Goldstein was originally drawn to Nepal in college, when he was attracted by the mysticism of Buddhism and the promise of hashish. But his interest in Asia and its people has taken a more profound turn. Since his first trip, Goldstein has visited the country nine more times, and co-founded the nonprofit Social Educational Environmental Development Services to help impoverished Nepalese villages build clinics and schools. Everest makes a point to hire and train Tibetan and Nepalese workers. Though some of the English-speaking foremen find it frustrating communicating with Tibetan employees, they have to put up with it, Goldstein said. "It's well-known in my company that I'm favorable toward my Tibetan staff."

Goldstein's loyalties are also with Potrero Hill, where he's lived since he came to San Francisco, moving from Vermont to Rhode Island Street before settling with his wife Donna into their three bedroom home on Kansas Street. "It was very sleepy. No one knew how to find it all," Goldstein said, recalling that there was only one restaurant on the Hill in the mid-1970s, Asimakopoulos Cafe. "Now he sees young families with strollers among the old Italian and Russian families that have lived in the neighborhood for generations."

Three year's ago he became involved with the Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses, and is now its president. Joining the group and interacting with fellow Potrero business owners has made Goldstein feel more a part of the community. "I particularly like the fact that I know who my neighbors are," he said. "I walk around the Hill and wherever I go I see people that I know."

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# As Food Prices Rise, Potrero Hill Pantries Feel the Squeeze

By Kerry Fleisher

Forklifts churn through the aisles at San Francisco Food Bank's 55,000 square foot warehouse on Pennsylvania Avenue, working to fulfill orders from more than 190 food pantries located throughout the City. The mounds of produce and dried goods are parked adjacent to a gaggle of volunteers, who sort, box, and stack them in little towers labeled "Potrero Hill Resource Center" or "United Council of Human Services". In the face of higher prices, the food distributed by the Food Bank provides much-needed financial relief for thousands of low income families who are struggling to make ends meet.

St. Gregory of Nyassa on DeHaro Street hosts San Francisco's second largest food pantry, serving upwards of 700 people every week. With milk prices up 30 percent since last year, and bread costing 16 percent more, families are more frequently relying on food pantries for assistance. St. Gregory's has experienced a 200 person increase in demand over the past few months, and they aren't alone. According to the Food Bank, the number of San Franciscans visiting food pantries has increased by 6,000 this year. According to Michael Reid, organizer of St. Gregory's food pantry, the pinch is tangible. "I really think it's connected to food prices," he said. "The food pantry leaves food worries behind, so people can focus on their landlord, PG&E...the usual."

Starting as early as 10 a.m. enthused shoppers line up around Jackson Park with their suitcases and shopping bags at the ready to make a dash to St. Gregory's. The church's food pantry opens every Friday from

noon to 4 p.m., when volunteers dish out fresh lettuce, zucchini, onions, okra, artichokes, amongst other produce, in addition to rice, beans, bread and other essentials. With donations from local grocers, there are even more exotic top-of-the-line goods, such as organic corn rye bread, pre-packaged cous-cous and Italian cobb salads, which are meted out first-come, first-served.

St. Gregory's, unlike other food pantries, doesn't require shoppers to show anything other than their identification: no income statement or proof of zip code required. The open-arms policy is evident in the food pantry signs, which feature Spanish, English and Chinese languages. The pantry draws crowds from all over the City, particularly Chinatown, and appeals to customers for its broad selection of groceries, buttressed by donations from Trader Joe's and Whole Foods.

Many of St. Gregory's clients depend on the food pantry as an essential in-kind income supplement. "Everything is necessary," said Lorenzo Martin-Ventura, a Mission resident, who relies on the food pantry to support a family of four. "It's free. The staff is like brothers and sisters. The food lasts at least three days." According to Chin Shuet the food pantry is an essential component of her household's economy. "I need the food for three days to feed three people. I always come here," she said.

Potrero Hill is home to seven food pantries, which are open at various times, some seasonally. A handful are located at schools – Daniel Webster, Starr King, and International Studies Academy all sponsor pantries – while others are held at community centers, such as Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, Martin House of Hospitality, Edgewood Family, Julian and 15th,



San Francisco Food Bank. Photo by Kerry Fleisher.

and Potrero Hill Resource Center. San Franciscans can dial 2.1.1 from any phone and enter their area code to hear a list of food pantries in their neighborhoods.

In large measure it's the Food Bank that keeps the pantries going. The Bank's warehouse holds three million pounds at a time, with 31 million pounds of food distributed every year in the form of 55,000 meals a day. Roughly one-third of the San Francisco Food Bank's services are dedicated to food pantries, or what the Food Bank calls their "neighborhood grocery network." Marguerite Nowak, Advocacy and Education Manager, noted that food pantries are "more dignified if set up like a farmer's market." The choose-as-you-go set-up reduces wasted food – since customers only take what they want – while retaining surplus for other pantries.

The Food Bank also distributes food to soup kitchens, such as St.

Anthony Dining Room, and provides services to childcare centers, drug rehabilitation centers, immigrant food assistance programs, and brown bag programs for seniors. All told the Food Bank works with 600 nonprofits and after-school programs, as well as close to 200 food pantries, supporting a complex hub of incoming and outgoing food.

The Food Bank's 70 staff members help coordinate 15 incoming deliveries to the warehouse a day. They network with Central Valley growers, large Northern California manufacturers, local food drives and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Since 2003 the Food Bank has shifted away from dry goods toward fresh produce, in part because USDA reduced its delivers to California by 60 percent when federal funding fell to just \$140 million a year nationwide.

*Continued on Page 10*

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# For Many Kids School-Related Activities Continue Into the Late-Afternoon

By Heather World

Getting your child into a suitable after-school program can seem like a daunting task, especially to parents of kindergarteners. Luckily there is an eclectic mix of afterschool activities available for the five to 12-year-old set.

Most parents prefer to get a slot in programs available on their kid's school campus, like nonprofit Growing and Learning Opportunities (GLO), which is offered at Alice Fong Yu, Alvarado, Fairmount, and West Portal elementary schools. Availability is determined by the size of the exiting fifth grade, according to Alvarado site supervisor Melissa Serrano. Many of Alvarado-GLO's 100 spots are filled by younger children; older kids tend to have a wider array of afterschool activities available to them.

GLO children choose among art, sports or science activities. Once a week a dance instructor visits, with a writer's workshop also available weekly, thanks to a grant from the San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and Families. On Fridays, GLO instructors offer their own skills, teaching the children

how to cook and sew, for example. Outside these activities the children team up for sports or climb on the play structures.

At Starr King Afterschool (SKA) – a collaboration between YMCA Urban Services and the No Child Left Behind Act – 146 students spend equal amounts of time working on academics, free-playing and participating in enrichment and literacy programs, according to program director Jorge Garcia. Garcia hired an outside organization, Streetside Stories, to work on writing with the children. Kindergarteners and first graders draw a picture and describe it; older children start with a book outline. The program lasts 10 weeks, with all 10 SKA staff pitching-in.

Buena Vista Elementary School also has its own afterschool program, which is open every day school is in session. The children do homework, and engage in a range of activities, like dance, drama and music.

On-site afterschool programs often fill quickly, leaving some parents scrambling. At Starr King Elementary School, parents cobbled together a system to provide more options. As a result, the school bus

from Starr King to Treasure Island now makes a stop at Carolina and 18th streets, where a chaperone escorts a group of children to Urban Recess. Designed as a resource for preschoolers, Urban Recess adapted its enormous play space to promote creativity through drama and cooperative playing.

At Alvarado, parents rounded up the minimum number of students, five, to earn a bus that their children take to Aiden Way in Diamond Heights. Though some parents initially expressed concerns about having their children bussed offsite, all have been happy with the program. The children cook, play music and engage in other extracurricular activities, such as chess. A list of other off-site programs is available at the school.

The San Francisco Department of Recreation and Parks Department offers developmental programs at off-campus sites, and will provide transportation to schools that have enough students to warrant the cost. In the beginning of the year scramble, school listervs were buzzing with requests to join various off-site City-supported programs. At Alvarado, children take a bus to Douglass Playground; at Starr King, the Treasure Island bus lets off children headed for Jackson playground with the Urban Recess children.

Programs run by well-known organizations such as the YMCA and The Boys and Girls Club serve students at Bryant, Chavez, Flynn and Moscone elementary schools. Sometimes the children are bussed off-site, as in the case of Moscone Elementary School; other times the organization comes to the campus, such as for YMCA-sponsored programs at Leonard Flynn, Cesar Chavez and Sunnyside elementary schools.

Chavez's YMCA program serves only kindergarten to third graders, but the slack is picked-up by the Jamestown Enrichment program, which is free to third to fifth graders, whether they attend Chavez or not. One teacher and an assistant lead their 15 students in art, dance and theater, and provide one-on-one tutoring.

Some schools offer programs targeted to academically-challenged children, often English learners who've scored below basic proficiency on standardized tests. Bryant, Leonard Flynn and Daniel Webster elementary schools have an on-site Child Development Center (CDC), which mirror private programs by offering homework tutoring, outdoor play and enrichment activities. The

*Continued on Page 11*

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# Spanish Immersion Program at Daniel Webster Elementary School Launches Ahead of Schedule

By Dena Fischer

Due to an overwhelming demand for Spanish Immersion Programs at San Francisco's public schools, the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) fast-tracked the opening of Daniel Webster Elementary School's Spanish Immersion Program (SIP). The program, which was originally slated to start at the school in 2009, began this academic year with two kindergarten classrooms, both of which consist of the optimal 50-50 mix of native Spanish and English-only speakers.

Daniel Webster has hired two highly qualified teachers to kick-off the program. With seven years experience teaching Spanish Immersion, Katina Strong moved from Chicago to join the team at Webster. Sunshine Suit, a 20-year San Francisco resident, transitioned to Webster from teaching high school-level Spanish. Fluent in Spanish and Italian, Suit is also an accomplished Flamenco and West African dancer. The new teachers join a dedicated

Daniel Webster staff, many of whom – including Principal Moraima Machado – are bi-lingual in Spanish and English.

The new program has been designated a top priority for SFUSD's Multi-Lingual Department, with significant resources being made available to Daniel Webster under the supervision of Kevin Chavez. The school is also being supported by Parents for Public Schools, San Francisco Advocates for Multi-lingual Education, The Potrero Residents Education Fund and the pioneer SIP kindergarten parents.

In addition to SIP, with support from the Louise and Claude Rosenberg Jr. Family Foundation funding has been secured for campus mentors to serve as recess and lunch time supervisors at the elementary school. The mentors have been trained at San Francisco State University's Pacific Leadership Institute in leadership, team/community building, conflict resolution, and violence prevention, and will be present daily to engage with the students and initiate all-inclusive cooperative games.



San Francisco Food Bank. Photo by Kerry Fleisher.

## Food Bank

*Continued from Page 8*

The Food Bank's staff has embraced the forced focus on fresh food with enthusiasm. The warehouse is dotted with stacks of carrot cuttings, broccoli, and tidings of plums and oranges that were rejected from grocery stores for not being symmetrical or pretty enough. Boxes are divided into perishable and no sell-by dates near the front of the warehouse.

Recently the cost of eggs offered to the Food Bank doubled, from .75 cents to \$1.50 for a dozen eggs. And Nowak noted that there are fewer donations this year in a tighter food market. "We are squeezed too," she said. "All of us are feeling squeezed and if you're on limited budget you

can't reduce rent. This is the one cost that can be pushed aside."

Food pantry goers may have noticed a drop in the amount of cereal that's available, caused by manufacturers selling surplus or defective boxes to discount stores rather than donating. However, even with a decline in food donations the Food Bank's cadre of volunteers remains buoyant: the Food Bank hosts 7,000 volunteers a year, who contribute roughly 64,000 hours. On a recent weekday afternoon, teenage volunteers from Long Beach's Grace First Presbyterian Church were packing boxes of plums with athletic vigor. When asked what inspired their hard work, one boy replied, as he ran to a different food station, "To help the unfortunate. We get a lot done here, as you can see."

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## After School Activities

Continued from Page 9

centers emphasize reading, but the curriculum is broad and influenced by educational philosophies, including Montessori. Children from other schools are accepted, though transportation from school to the site varies. Admission priority is given to low-income families.

At Bryant, the CDC offers a reading program called AfterSchool Kidzlit. Children hear books read aloud, or read by themselves, and make connections to their own lives through discussion, drama, art, movement, and writing. Alvarado uses its Program Improvement Status – a negative designation under the No Child Left Behind law that provides a school with extra funds to improve its standardized test scores – to subsidize its Excel program. Students are accepted based on academic need, but Excel offers more than tutoring and outside play. Children learn about health and culture, and have access to social service programs. The program boasts impressive statistics, with more than three-quarters of its participants improving their school performance and behavior.

Despite so many opportunities, many children still don't have access to suitable afterschool care. On October 16th Lights Out Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool programs, will feature 7,500 events meant to highlight what children have learned afterschool, from arts to academics. This year the supporting organization, the Afterschool

Alliance, will thank the Century Community Learning Centers, the chief federal funding stream for afterschool programs.

### Afterschool Programs

Some specialized afterschool programs operate only a few days a week. Below is a brief description of these programs and which schools they serve.

The National Conservatory Theater offers a drama program for students ages five and up. Its Satellite Drama Program provides children with the opportunity to practice stagecraft for 10 weeks ending in a performance for parents. The theater started the program in response to deep cuts in funding for the arts in the California school system. The classes cater to students in underserved schools that have identified a gap in arts funding.

The Precita Center starts with six year olds, picking them up from Chavez and Flynn elementary schools offering homework assistance, sports and recreation, cultural enrichment, and leadership development.

Brain Soup offers afterschool art, dance, theater, and cooking classes with an emphasis on developing reading and writing skills.

At Drop-In Recreation, elementary and middle school youth participate in supervised afterschool recreation at two public schools.

The One-on-One Tutoring Program provides elementary, middle, and high school youth who are performing one or more years below grade level intensive, individualized

tutoring from college students.

At the Junipero Serra CDC, Branch Living Library and Think Parks helps students improve their school and communities through hands-on activities. They also learn about math, science, history, language arts, arts and technology.

Brava Performing Studio for the Theater Arts offers dance to third graders and up through the Brava Ballroom. Once a week the children learn new dances, from tango to hip hop.

At the Marsh Youth Theater,

children learn dance, visual art, drama and music.

Tree Frog Treks Wild Science! introduces children to biology, chemistry, physics, earth sciences and natural history through live animals. The curriculum has a theme to integrate science through hands-on experiments

Sfkids.org provides a partial list of afterschool programs for at <http://www.sfkids.org/Listings.aspx?subcat=384&fldr=508>

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# Small West African Country Faces Big Problems

By Steven J. Moss

Armed conflict in Niger's mountainous desert continues to disrupt agricultural and educational activities, with more than 10,000 people displaced by sporadic fighting. Surrounded by their dying fields, Air Mountains residents must travel more than 100 kilometers to market towns to buy food; when they do, they face banditry, anti-vehicular landmines, military patrols, and sporadic rebel attacks.

Since rebels re-launched a decades-old desert conflict last year, demanding more community investment and mining revenue from resource-rich pockets of the desert, food has become a rare commodity in the mountains. "There used to be at least 300 gardens, primarily in Iferouane, Tin Teloost and Eboukoum," said a tribal leader, who has been displaced by fighting, but continues to live in the Air Mountains. "Since the conflict began, it is almost impossible to get gasoline to keep the gardens' motor pumps operating. There are only a few working gardens left in Tin Teloost. This is our second year of not producing a harvest in the mountains."

The conflict has led thousands of students to drop out of school, according to the Agadez regional government. Almost 30 out of roughly 370 schools in northern

Niger, affecting more than 2,000 students, have been shuttered. Many of the displaced students are entering their second year of missed classes, in a country where only 12 percent of women and 18 percent of men are able to read by age 24.

According to the mayor of Agadez – one of the largest towns in Niger's north – Abdoulaye Hama, the military has rationed petroleum sales since the conflict broke out to prevent fuel from falling into the hands of rebels or bandits. As a result, exports of the region's primary crop, onions, have plummeted. Fifty kilogram of onions used to cost up to \$29; now that amount sells for roughly \$3. "Not enough to even cover the farmers' costs," lamented Hama.

International humanitarian aid and food assistance from the national food bank must go through the regional Agadez government, which then sends the military-escorted delivery to the mountains through a network of elected mayors, tribal chiefs and religious leaders. According to the Agadez governor's coordinator of humanitarian deliveries, Harouna Oumanou Bayero, rebels haven't attempted to block food deliveries. "This food is going to help their population, their families. There may be some bandits who try to take advantage of the conflict to carry out petty crime near the cities, but they do not dare to

attack in the bush, knowing that they will then have to face the rebels." However, earlier this summer the governor's office said bandits stole a truck transporting government food stock headed to the mountains on the paved road from Agadez. According to 27 year old Amoumene (not his real name), who fled the fighting last Fall, coming south to Agadez, "I came here because a man of my age who is in the mountains will be suspected of being a rebel. I could have been picked up or targeted by the government at any minute. I could not join the rebellion because I am the oldest son and if I die, who will take care of my family?"

"I had an onion garden five kilometers south of Iferouane. I had put all my money into the planting because I expected to sell my onions and use the earnings to get married. But I could not stay because of the violence."

"During combat in November [2007], I fled with a camel herder. We travelled two days before we arrived to Agadez. I have been trying to find work for the past nine months. I go to the center where employers search for workers, but they all want people with schooling. I have never been to school.

"I am upset now that my parents never put me in school, but I know they needed me at home to help. I cannot go home because I have nothing to offer my family. I cannot stay here if I cannot even make money to cover rice?"

"And as a Tuareg, I know that anytime there is an explosion or combat, no matter how far away, people look at me with suspicion. Sometimes, I think I am close to losing my mind. I wake up afraid a mine will go off- anywhere."

"I just want peace to return. I want to see my garden and afford to marry and get on with my life. I would never think about trying to go far away to look for work like some people who escape at sea to Europe. Nomads are too attached to the desert. If I am desperate enough, I will go through the mountains into Libya or Algeria."

"But I am too tired to even do that."

*This article is based on news and analysis from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Steven Moss made multiple trips to Niger as part of a U.S. Treasury Department-sponsored government reform effort in 2006 and 2007.*

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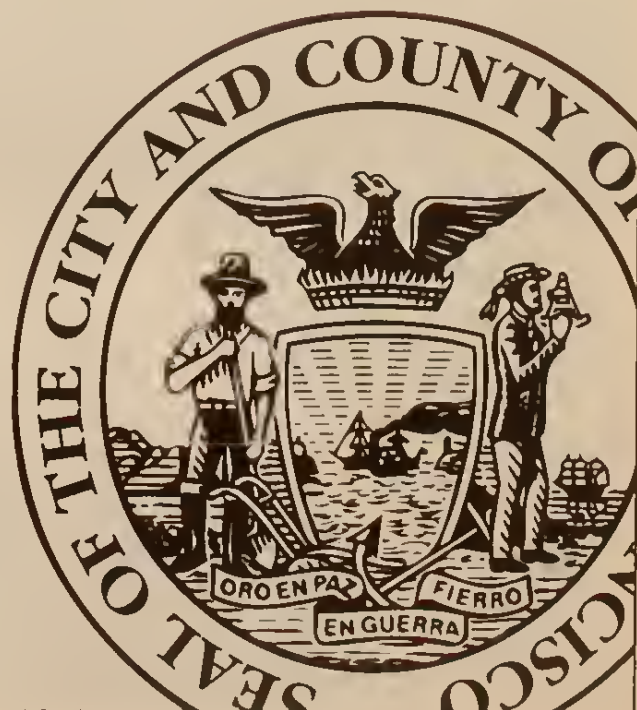
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You must re-register if you move, change your name, or want to change your political party.

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1929, 325 Mississippi St., L-R: Jim, Kate, John, and Emma S. Heitman

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# Kids on the Block By Stacey Bartlett

Caroline Crisafulli-Vargas celebrates her third birthday on October 17th.



Four month old Jesse Daniel Griffiths, nicked-named Jesse roo as a result of his American-Australian heritage, is ready for his first Halloween on the Hill.

Potrero Hill native Tristan Schnetzler, turns eight on October 30. Patis, who's lived on the Hill since he was three months old, turns 11 on October 10. Tristan was a finisher in the Banana Chase 200 meter Young Champions Race last month.



Charlie George Kotarba celebrated his first birthday with his proud parents Cara and Scott Kotarba at a party at home on September 27th.



Vivian, shown in her first day of school outfit, celebrated her seventh birthday on September 19th. Little sister Eleanor had her first haircut on September 14th.



Happy fifth birthday to Cameron, who loves movies, soccer, books, and traveling with his family. He's working hard at learning Spanish in kindergarten this year!



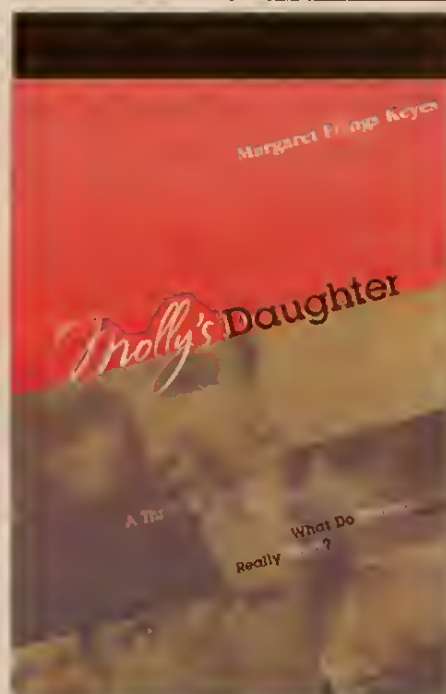
## STALKING IRISH MADNESS



SEARCHING FOR THE ROOTS OF MY FAMILY'S SCHIZOPHRENIA



In the mid-1980s I shared a four bedroom house in a bad neighborhood of Washington, D.C. with three other guys, Jonathan Kamin, Tim Gresback, and Patrick Tracey. Jonathan's now working for the U.S. Agency for International Development in Moscow; Tim is a criminal attorney in Idaho; and Pat recently published a book, *Stalking Irish Madness*, which chronicles his attempt to make sense of his family's multigenerational struggle with schizophrenia. Pat was a tough guy to live with; his life was messy, filled with streetwise muscle men and revolving one-night-stands who regularly ended up in our kitchen or living room talking, or making, trash. Pat made his livelihood, if you can call it that, writing for various newsletters and local papers, always with colorful flourishes. I remember him, a cigarette dangling from his lips, a rakish look in his eye, as he waited to take his turn at the pool table in a local dive bar, or told stories of his latest sexual adventures. I haven't yet read his book, but I will. - Steven Moss



Long-time Potrero Hill resident Margaret Frings Keyes recently published her novelized memoir, *Molly's Daughter*. The book weaves family and social issues into the stories of a mother, daughter, and granddaughter that span the labor movements of the 1900s, through the Great Depression and World War II, and on to the social issues of the last half of the 20th century. Keyes trained as a clinical social worker and a Jungian Psychologist and Psychodramatist, and currently teaches a Fall course at the University of San Francisco's Fromm Institute on human consciousness. She bought the artist/potter's Suzie Coon's home on Wisconsin Street in 1971.



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## Letters to the Editor

Continued from Page 3

Dear Editor:

We did it! Muni now realizes how important the Number 19 bus is to Potrero Hill.

Thank you everyone for helping. It was a lot quicker than way back in 1969, when it took 17 years for the City to realize our needs.

The Number 19 will go back to the original route Potrero Hill chose for the bus thirty years ago. The route runs south from 8th and Market streets, up Rhode Island Street to San Francisco General Hospital, then returning north on De Haro Street to the Marina Senior Center.

Public transportation will be much needed with the expansion of the San Francisco General Hospital.

We can accomplish many things when we work together. Even the Senior Lunch Group at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House felt that the Number 19 was so important that they were right in there doing their share to help.

Our gratitude goes to Muni's Julie Kirschbaum, Transit Effectiveness Project program manager; and Peter Straus, manager of service planning, for reconsidering the route of the Number 19 for Potrero Hill.

Babette Drefke  
Kansas Street

We are very excited to provide this unique opportunity for classical music enthusiasts to express their commitment to civil rights while enjoying an intimate performance by the legendary Leon Fleisher (who will be in town to perform with the San Francisco Symphony on October 16-18). At this special event, Fleisher will perform several solo piano works, as well as a Brahms trio with sensational young cellist Alisa Weilerstein and acclaimed violinist Cho-Liang (Jimmy) Lin—who have likewise expressed their deep commitment to defeating Proposition 8.

As the parent of a San Francisco resident whom Mayor Newsom recently married to her partner of many years, Mr. Fleisher hopes both to provide critical financial resources to No on 8 in the closing days of the campaign and to draw attention to the stake that parents and grandparents have in supporting marriage equality.

### • HOST COMMITTEE • (see list)

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Hon. Dennis Herrera and Anne Herrera	Michael Chabon and Ayelet Waldman
Hon. Mark Leno	Daniel Handler and Lisa Brown
Hon. Jose Cisneros	Andrew Sean Greer and David Rosa
Hon. Phil Ting	Terry Gamble Boyer and Peter Boyer
Edwin Duwater	Theresa Stewart and Carole Scagnelli
Armistead Maupin	Roger Dougherty
Mollie Katzen	

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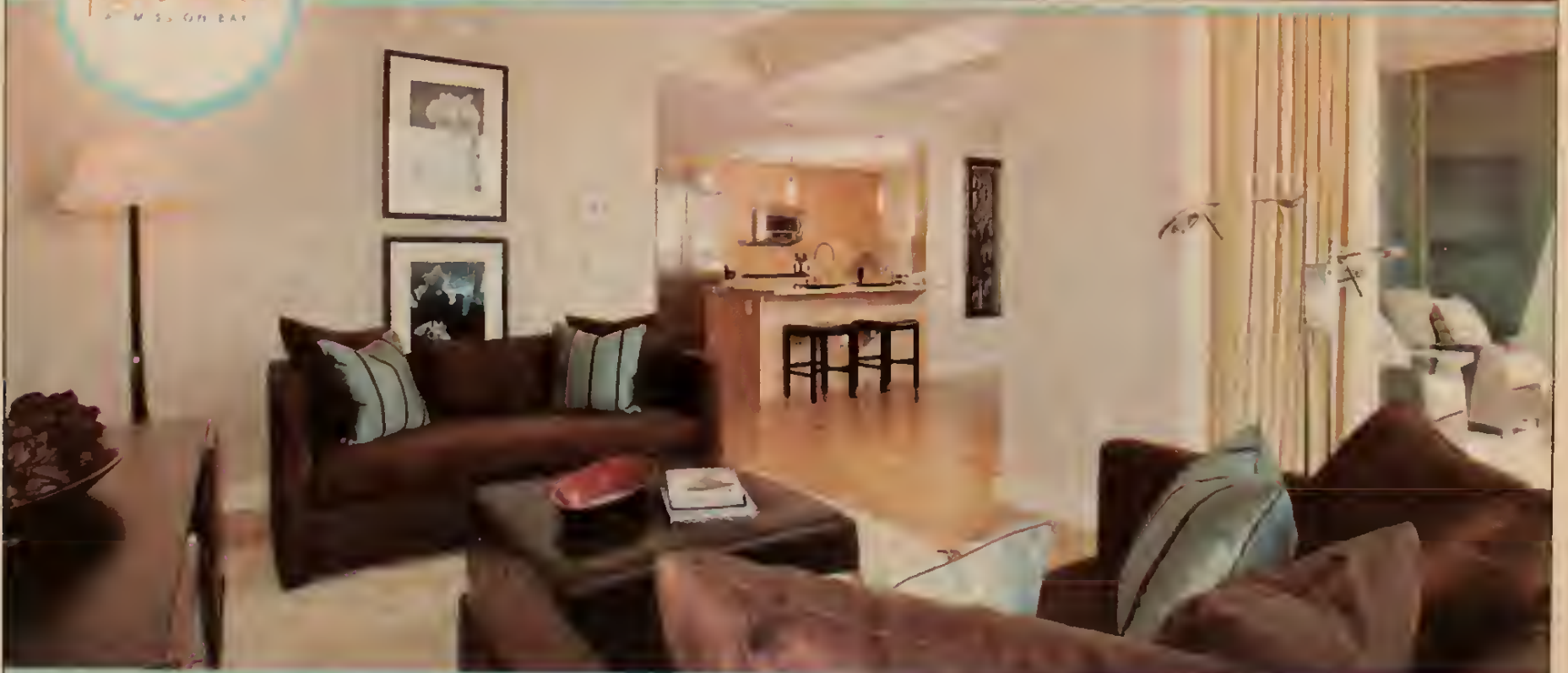
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## Potrero Terrace

Continued from Front Page

Under HOPE-SF developers are encouraged to craft plans to rebuild the City's distressed housing projects. Last spring the Housing Authority chose redevelopment proposals for Potrero Terrace-Annex, Sunnydale-Velasco, and Westside Courts. San Francisco will contribute \$5 million towards the \$95 million necessary to redevelop the three public housing sites.

The HOPE-SF Task Force created a list of principles to guide redevelopment, such as one-for-one replacement of public housing units, job opportunities for residents, integration with neighborhood improvement plans, the creation of environmentally sustainable housing, and building a strong sense of community. HOPE-SF principles are only guidelines, as Task Force member Rene Cazenave explained. "The Task Force has very little power."

Bridge will issue a formal redevelopment plan for Potrero Terrace-Annex by early 2010. Under preliminary plans the 606 existing housing units will be demolished and replaced with the same number of units over five project phases, enabling existing residents to remain in their homes until new units are constructed. In addition, 446 market rate homes, 229 affordable homes, and commercial space will be developed. The market rate homes are supposed to pay off the cost of building the public housing units.

"Bridge is a Republican nonprofit

controlled by realtors that doesn't have a grasp on community. They are likely to do anything the Housing Authority says," said Cazenave, who supports one-for-one replacement for public housing tenants but sees it as the number one challenge financing HOPE-SF redevelopments. "Who's gonna want to pay \$600,000 for a condo in the projects?" Cazenave asked. "They're going to cut the number of public housing units if they don't move people in." Sara Shortt, Housing Rights Committee's executive director, is concerned about gentrification at Potrero Terrace-Annex. "There are certain amenities homeowners that buy condos there are going to want to have. They're going to want to see a Starbucks and a Jamba Juice," she said. "This could really change the neighborhood's demographics."

In response to existing residents' concern about being displaced by redevelopment, in mid-September the Housing Authority posted a "Do Not Move Notice." The notice states that "It is the Authority's intent that all residents in good standing will be relocated to the new housing upon completion." But Cazenave isn't convinced. "The problem with phased [one-for-one] relocation is that anyone who has a problem with the Housing Authority is getting evicted to make room for relocation on-site," he explained.

Shortt wants the City to adopt legislation protecting public housing tenants' rights. Under the Public Housing Tenant Protection Act, HOPE-SF principles of one-for-one replacement units, and not just

the right to return, but the right to remain, achieved through phased on-site relocation would be enforced. "From tenants' perspective, there is a real fear that people there now won't be able to return. Based on frightening examples in history, people were screened-out, had to meet eligibility requirements, or got forgotten on the record, lost in the shuffle, or were not in good standing so they were denied the right to return," Shortt said.

Although redevelopment will improve housing conditions, there's no guarantee that it will solve existing problems with crime, evictions, and poor management. Cazenave points to the Bernal Dwellings as an example of a HOPE VI redevelopment where many of the same problems remain. "Nothing else was done except rebuilding: no programs, no community integration activities, no added police. Zero effort. Now the property owners are up in arms," he said. "Without anti-violence programs, job training, and ways to break barriers between groups, it won't work."

"You will not see police cars after you hear gunshots, at all. There's a substation down there and you're supposed to be able to get a hold of them 24 hours a day, which is not true. They're never at the substation," said a Potrero Terrace resident, speaking of existing conditions at the complex. Other Potrero Terrace residents, while in favor of on-site relocation, are concerned that gang wars might break out as a result of tenants being relocated from one block to another.

The HOPE-SF Task Force is working on a Predevelopment Service Plan – slated for completion by the end of this month – which will catalogue City programs available to public housing residents, such as rental assistance, afterschool programming, and family case management. Existing barriers to accessing programs, such as the requirement of a GED or driver's license, will be eliminated under the plan, the implementation of which will be funded by general funds and philanthropic foundations.

According to Housing Authority director Henry Alvarez III, while the Authority isn't broke, "We're horrible at what we do. But we're going to get better at it." He promised to reduce evictions through the implementation of the rental assistance program, which was launched at Hunters View last winter. "The SFHA sent the message to people that they did not take action if rent wasn't paid, so many stopped paying, especially when they felt unsafe or their units are uninhabitable," Shortt said. "We have advocated strongly with the SFHA around this and as a result got them to have a policy of accepting fair payment plans in these situations, knowing that these eviction attempts could be used as a back door to deny right of return. We also are assisting those residents who believe they are being unfairly charged or don't owe money with negotiations with the SFHA."

Continued on Page 19

## POTRERO HILL REAL ESTATE

### Recycle Those Halloween Costumes!



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## Potrero Nun

Continued on Front Page

us," she said with a mixture of anger and sorrow.

With the school's closure Sister Kathleen shifted to parish work. Under Father Peter Sammon – who became pastor in 1970 and held the position until his death in 2002 – Sister Kathleen and another nun, Sister Lucia Lodolo, became St. Teresa's Pastoral Associates. The Sisters worked as liaisons between the congregation and the priest; sitting-in on committees, meetings, and running community-based programs. The three worked to "give the church back to the people."

In the 1970s St. Teresa's joined The Sanctuary Movement, a national religious and political effort to shelter Central American refugees who'd fled political violence and civil war in El Salvador and Guatemala. "There was a law in place that said people could come to this country. The President didn't believe it, but we did. The first to come was a mother, her two children, and another woman forced to leave her kids behind. They had already been jailed and tortured in their countries. I don't see how these women could be considered criminals." She paused, giving ample time for reflection. "But the work we did was very gratifying. The people here were so beautiful. Eventually we helped get the City of Refuge" – a policy making San Francisco a

Sanctuary City, which was adopted in the 1980s – "on the books. We fought for these immigrants to be able to go to the hospital, school, and the police." In response to a *San Francisco Chronicle* story published earlier this year, that reported that the San Francisco Juvenile Proclamation Department had been housing illegal immigrant teenagers who'd been convicted of drug offenses or paying to fly the youth back to their home countries, Sister Kathleen said, "We had no intention of protecting criminals. What the *Chronicle* is saying is untrue, saying that we were housing criminals... [But] the people are really supportive."

Two years ago, she and Sister Lucia retired from St. Teresa's to "get closer to the poor and really see what was going on." They opened a school on Folsom and Caesar Chavez streets, where they teach English as a second language and immigration rights two nights a week. With donations from the St. Anthony Foundation they bring donuts and coffee to people living in single room occupancy hotels in the Tenderloin every other Wednesday, with the hope of engendering a sense of community. On Fridays Sister Kathleen does social work in St. Anthony's dining-room, where upwards of 2,600 people get a warm meal each day.

Although Presentation Sisters live and work around the world, the Order has declined to roughly 100 members from its peak mid-century

last. Most new members are from India and Africa. Sister Kathleen is currently working with her sisters to create a justice contract – an agreement to unite all the sisters to focus on one primary goal – aimed at ending global poverty, as, according to Sister Kathleen, we are using up "the earth's resources faster than we should."

When asked if she has any regrets Sister Kathleen responded "I did enter very young, but I have never regretted. It has been a wonderful time for me. I've met so many wonderful people. That's what God is all about; developing relationships with people."

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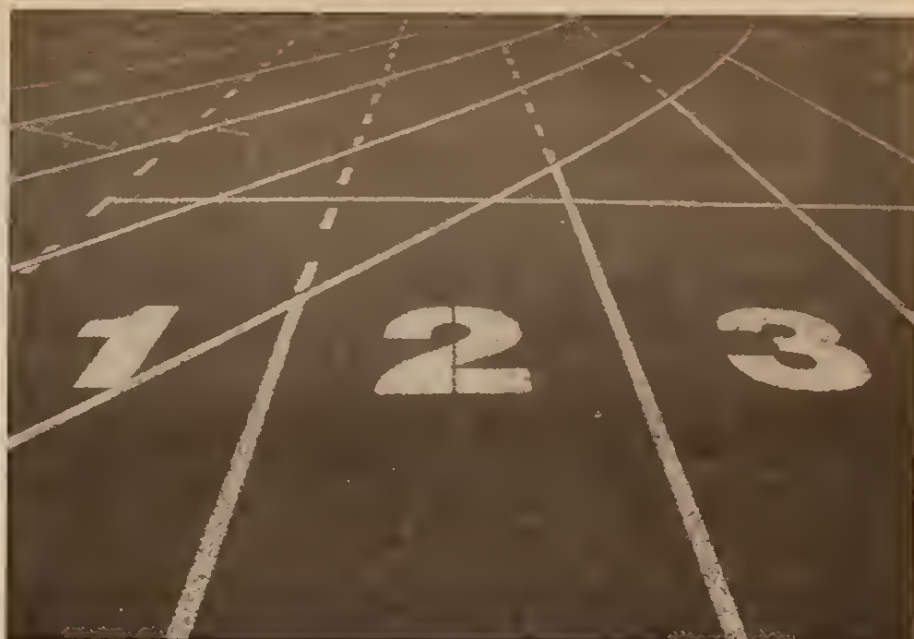
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REAL ESTATE



# Long-Time Potrero Hill Resident Christine Agnes Schwegel Passes



The late Christine Schwegel at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House.

Christine Agnes Schwegel, a long time Potrero Hill resident, passed away suddenly on Sunday, September 14th in San Francisco. Schwegel, one of ten children, was born in 1913 to Margaret and George Merver of Calumet, Michigan. Her family later moved to Tonopah, Nevada, where Schwegel spent her childhood. She moved to San Francisco as a young girl, and worked as a secretary for many years. It was in San Francisco where she met her beloved husband, Pete. They were happily married and enjoyed their lives together on the Hill. Schwegel would fondly recall the times she and

Pete spent together at Slovenian Hall, and the wonderful friendships they enjoyed together.

Pete predeceased Christine in 1979. She continued living in their home on Potrero Hill until her death. She loved baseball, much because of Pete's ball career with the Oakland Oaks, and was an avid Oakland Athletics fan.

Schwegel attended St. Boniface Catholic Church and St. Theresa's Catholic Church, and was a member of the Slovenian-American Fraternity and Beneficial Society. She visited the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House regularly, where she enjoyed spending time with her many friends, playing bingo, and the occasional bus trip to Reno. Schwegel also enjoyed having lunch at Goat Hill Pizza with her family.

Schwegel was also predeceased by her niece, Margie Steele. She is survived by her nephew Henry Judnick of Napa, Suzanne Steele of Aptos and many grand nieces and nephews.

Memorial services were held last month at Driscoll Mortuary at 1465 Valencia Street in San Francisco. Schwegel requested that in lieu of flowers donations be made to St. Anthony Dining Room Foundation, 121 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102-3899.



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## Potrero Terrace

Continued from Page 16

"Jo," a mother of three children and 16-year Potrero Terrace resident, was evicted from the complex a few months ago after accumulating more than \$1,000 in back rent. She and her kids now live with her sister a few doors from her old apartment, which is boarded-up and vacant. If it weren't for her sister, Jo claims she'd be a single mother on the streets. According to Jo, the Housing Authority told her about the rental assistance program two months before she and her children were evicted. "They let people go a year without paying rent and then you're \$2,000 worth of back rent and then you're out. They don't say, you're \$200 behind, let's talk. Or come in and let's figure out a way," said Jo.

Finding a way to pay rent as a single mother with a low-paying job was only part of Jo's problem. For years she suffered through bad heating, broken windows and doors, mold infestation, backed-up pipes, and peeling paint. It took more than a year for management to respond to her complaint that her apartment had no heat. She was finally provided with a small space heater, which allowed only one room to be heated at a time. To make matters worse, the windows didn't lock and her son's window didn't close, creating a draft during winter. When her bedroom door broke, Jo went without a door because management asked her to pay \$100 for what she calls, "a piece

of cardboard that was scraping along the floor every time it opened or closed."

When Jo moved in every room in her sister's apartment was filled with tubs of black water. The vacant upstairs unit had been invaded and set on fire, and when the pipes were broken, water bubbled under the ceiling paint of the unit below. The moldy, black water bubbles burst, damaging much of the family's possessions, an expense for which they were never reimbursed. It took more than a year for management to fix the leak damage, for which Jo's sister was charged.

"Living up here is a lose-lose situation. You work and they make you pay an over amount of rent for a crappy place. It's not like you're paying \$700 for something that's nice. You're paying \$700 for a place where if you walk outside your door, you might get shot," Jo said. "Ninety percent of us don't know how to pay our bills on time. That's why we're here. They should have workshops for people to help us get our rent paid. I never had a father or a mother, so I never learned how to do that. It's nice to have a place where you can only pay \$700 rent, but if you don't know how to manage your money, you still can't pay that amount."

The Potrero Terrace and Annex complex isn't Bridge's first San Francisco redevelopment project. In 1995, Bridge helped rebuild the North Beach public housing projects under

Continued on Page 23



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General Election, NOVEMBER 4, 2008

# Endorsements

US President/Vice President: **BARACK OBAMA/JOSEPH BIDEN**

US Congress, District 8: **NANCY PELOSI**

State Senate, District 3: **MARK LENO**

State Assembly, District 13: **TOM AMMIANO**

Superior Court Judge, Seat 12: **GERARDO SANDOVAL**

San Francisco Board of Education: **SANDRA FEWER, NORMAN YEE**

San Francisco Community College Board: **CHRIS JACKSON, MILTON MARKS**

### San Francisco Propositions

- A – YES** San Francisco General Hospital Earthquake Safety Bonds.
- B – YES** Establishing Affordable Housing Fund.
- C – No position** City Employees on Charter Boards and Commissions.
- D – YES** Financing Pier 70 Waterfront District Development.
- E – YES** Number of Signatures Required to Recall City Officials.
- F – YES** City Elections Only in Even-Numbered Years.
- G – YES** Allowing Retirement System Credit for Unpaid Parental Leave.
- H – YES** Setting Clean Energy Deadlines; Studying Options for Providing Energy; Changing Bond Authority to Pay for Public Utility Facilities.
- I – NO** Creating the Office of an Independent Rate Payer Advocate.
- J – YES** Creating a Historic Preservation Commission.
- K – NO** Changing the Enforcement of Laws Related to Prostitution and Sex Workers.

- L – No position** Funding the Community Justice Center.
- M – YES** Prohibiting Harassment of Tenants by Landlords.
- N – YES** Changing Real Property Transfer Tax Rates.
- O – YES** Replacing the Emergency Response Fee with an Access Line Tax and Revising the Telephone Users Tax.
- P – No** Composition of the SF County Transportation Authority Board.
- Q – YES** Modifying the Payroll Expense Tax.
- R – No position** Renaming the Oceanside Water Treatment Plant.
- S – No position** Budget Set-Asides and Identification of Replacement Funds.
- T – YES** Free and Low-Cost Substance Abuse Treatment Programs.
- U – YES** Policy Against Funding the Deployment of Armed Forces in Iraq.
- V – No position** Policy Against Terminating JROTC Programs in Public High Schools.

### California Propositions

- 1A – YES** High Speed Rail Bond Act.
- 2 – YES!!** Standards for Confining Farm Animals.
- 3 – YES** Children's Hospital Bond Act.
- 4 – NO** Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy.
- 5 – YES** Nonviolent Drug Offenses. Sentencing, Parole and Rehabilitation.
- 6 – NO** Police and Law Enforcement Funding. Criminal Penalties and Laws.

- 7 – No position** Renewable Energy Generation.
- 8 – NO!!** Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry.
- 9 – NO** Criminal Justice System. Victims' Rights. Parole.
- 10 – No position** Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy.
- 11 – YES** Redistricting.
- 12 – YES** Veterans' Bond Act of 2008.

For more information, please visit our web site: [www.PHDemClub.org](http://www.PHDemClub.org)



# San Francisco Design Center Hosts “Ladies Who Launch”



Ladies Who Launch founder Victoria Colligan spoke to more than 500 attendees at the San Francisco Design Center. Photo by Switchblade Creative Studios, Inc.


By Marie Rochelle Macaspac

Ladies Who Launch, a national women's networking organization, held their annual San Francisco event last month. Led by founder Victoria Colligan, the one day gathering brought aspiring female entrepreneurs and successful business owners to the San Francisco Design Center. Demonstrating good business practices from a woman's point of view, Ladies Who Launch strives to encourage women to start or grow their businesses.

The event showcased several interviews with local and successful women-owned businesses, as well as an entire floor of merchandise and services from up-and-coming Bay Area businesses owned by members of local group chapters, known as “incubators”. Among the many merchants at the event, Erin Saul, owner of Namaste Mofo, said she'd received positive feedback about her products. According to Saul, who's a Ladies Who Launch member, “The most wonderfully surprising thing about Ladies Who Launch is the sheer vastness of the network. At first I thought I would just have the ladies in my incubator to lean on and kick things around with — and I do — but it turns out there is also this huge,

vast, awesome national network of smart, driven, connected women who are all willing to share ideas and contacts and resources. Ladies Who Launch has been an invaluable gift to my business and my life.”

“I had access to so many services and members in one room. It was a very productive day, and it definitely helped me decide to finally join,” said Audrey Galeon, owner of Blacksquirrel.com, an athletic clothing line.



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## GETTING INVOLVED



Dogpatch Neighborhood Association usually meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month. The next meeting is **October 14** at Sundance Coffee on Third Street at 20th Street from 7 to 9 p.m.

Potrero Boosters meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street. For more information, visit [www.potreroboosters.org](http://www.potreroboosters.org) or contact President Tony Kelly at 341.8040 or [president@potreroboosters.org](mailto:president@potreroboosters.org). Next meeting: **October 28**, 7 p.m.

Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses (PHAMB) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit [www.potrerohill.biz](http://www.potrerohill.biz) or call 341.8949. Next meeting: **October 14**, 10 a.m.

Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Bayview Police Station Community Room at 201 William Street. Access can be gained by entering through the Newhall Street door. Next meeting: **October 7**, 6 p.m.

Potrero Hill Democratic Club meets the First Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro St. For more information, call 648.6740, [www.PHDemClub.org](http://www.PHDemClub.org). Next Meeting: **October 7**.

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Discussions are held on subjects related to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's microclimate. Call 648.6740 for details.

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# Finally, Some Truth in Labeling.

## Official Ballot Label on Proposition H

Shall the City: evaluate making the City the primary provider of electric power in San Francisco; consider options to provide energy to San Francisco residents, businesses and City departments; mandate deadlines for the City to meet its energy needs through clean and renewable energy sources; establish a new Office of the Independent Ratepayer Advocate to make recommendations about utility rates to the City's Public Utilities Commission; and **allow the Board of Supervisors to approve the issuance of revenue bonds to pay for any public utility facilities without voter approval?**

The official ballot label shows Prop. H takes away your right to vote on bonds.

## After You Read the Label, You Won't Buy **Prop. H.**

Prop. H gives this Board of Supervisors, and all future Boards, the **power to spend billions to take over any utility without voter approval.** Join Dianne Feinstein, Gavin Newsom, San Francisco Fire Fighters Local 798, the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods and SPUR in voting **NO on Proposition H.**



"Proposition H is an issue of fiscal responsibility. It takes away your ability to hold local elected officials accountable for how they spend billions of dollars. Please join me in voting NO on Prop. H."

—DIANNE FEINSTEIN,  
United States Senator



"Prop. H will give politicians and unelected commissioners the power to borrow billions to take over utilities without a vote of the people. And San Franciscans will be forced to pay the cost."

—GAVIN NEWSOM,  
San Francisco Mayor



"Health care, our schools, our after-school programs, not to mention public safety, are all more pressing than spending billions to take over PG&E's power system."

—DR. GEORGE DAVIS,  
Bayview Hunters Point  
Multipurpose Senior Services, Inc.



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# Vote No on Prop. H



# Police Blotter

**September 18, 10:40 p.m., and 11:30 p.m.,** Robbery with a Gun, 25th and Rhode Island streets and Rhode Island and 17th streets: Two robberies occurred in Potrero Hill 40 minutes apart with similar suspect descriptions. The suspect in both cases was described as a black male with a black hooded sweatshirt. He was described as being six foot tall and in the second incident, wearing a ski mask. The first incident occurred at 25th and Rhode Island streets. A Potrero Hill resident was walking home when she was approached by a male who brandished a gun and demanded her messenger bag, which contained her personal effects. The man fled on foot and was joined by two other males that may have been acting as look-outs. Three people were detained but could not be positively identified. The second incident occurred roughly 40 minutes later, when a man was walking on 17th and Rhode Island streets. He was approached from behind by a male wearing a ski mask who asked what was in his bag. When the man replied, "Nothing", the suspect took a gun out of his waistband. The victim, fearing for his life, ran into the street to summon help. The suspect fled on foot and was joined by another male wearing all black clothing.

**September 18, 11:15 p.m.,** Burglary of a Warehouse, 400 block of 23rd Street: A warehouse manager heard noise coming from the rear of his property. He investigated, and when he shined a flashlight at the noise's source he saw a male run off. He investigated further and saw that the lock to the door was damaged. The would-be burglar left behind a wheel barrel with numerous tools.

**September 17, 11:55 p.m.,** Residential Burglary, 1200 block of Rhode Island Street: A Potrero Hill resident and her infant returned home, entered their apartment and found an unknown male in their kitchen. When the suspect was spotted he fled out of the back door and through the rear of numerous homes. The suspect was described as a black male 50 to 60 years old, five foot, 10 inches, 180 pounds, with grey hair and stubble. He was wearing a white baseball cap, beige windbreaker, and a plaid shirt.

**September 12, 10:20 p.m.,** Homicide With a Gun, 1000 block of Connecticut: Officers Guzman and Alveranga responded to a call regarding a shooting. The officers located the victim, who was already being tended to by medics for a gun shot wound. The officers attempted to identify possible witnesses to the shooting, to no avail. Numerous people refused to speak with the officers, and discarded the anonymous tip line cards the officers distributed. The officers found shell casings and other forms of evidence, along with several vehicles that were damaged. Homicide inspectors took over the investigation.

**September 12, 5:11 p.m.,** Controlled Substance Offense, Mariposa and Connecticut streets:

Officer Scott and Sergeant Moran saw an individual who they knew from prior arrests. Officer Scott spoke with the individual, who consented to a search. Officer Scott located suspected crystal methamphetamine on the individual. The individual was placed under arrest and transported to Bayview Station.

**September 10, 9 a.m.,** Weapon, Possession School Grounds, Terrorists Threats; Weapon, Tear Gas, 600 block of DeHaro: School Resource Officer Curry responded to a fight between two students on a Muni bus. The victim told officers that another student had threatened to stab him with the knife she had in her backpack. The suspect showed the knife to the victim, at which time he called for help. Officer Curry detained the suspect and searched her backpack, locating the knife and a canister of mace. The suspect was placed into custody; no one was injured during the incident.

**September 9, 9:46 p.m.,** Discharging Firearm at a House, Connecticut and 25th streets: Officers Lee and Lieu were patrolling Potrero Hill when they heard five or six gunshots. The officers went to the area of the gunfire and detained a person driving a car, which was speeding away from the scene. The person in the car told officers that someone had been shooting at him and that he was trying to get off the Hill. The officers searched the car and the individual, but didn't find any weapons. Although the officers found numerous casings in the area, they were unable to locate any victims or suspects.

**September 9, 9:20 p.m.,** Robbery, With a Gun; Aggravated Assault: Officers Burkhart and Lee responded to a shots fired call in the area of Kansas and 22nd streets. The officers spoke with a victim, who stated he was walking home when an armed suspect approached him and demanded his money. The victim gave the suspect his money, cell phone and keys. The suspect and the victim got into a verbal argument and began to walk away from one another. The suspect then shot at the victim's feet four times, got into a car and sped away. The victim was not injured during the incident. The suspect was not found.

**September 9, 9 p.m.,** Robbery with Force, Connecticut and Mariposa streets: Officers Paul and Cooper responded to a call regarding a purse snatch. The officers spoke with the victim, who told them that she was on Connecticut Street when she felt someone grab her purse strap. The victim turned around, faced her attacker and fought to keep her purse. The suspect let go of the purse and ran from the area. A witness told officers that she illuminated the suspect with her car headlights, then followed the suspect and watched as the suspect got into a parked vehicle and drove away. No one was injured during the incident. No suspect was found.

## Alvarado; Leonard Flynn Elementary Schools Post Higher Test Scores

### English Scores

SCHOOL difference	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	5-yr
Alvarado	50%	49%	53%	50%	54%	+4%
Buena Vista	33	33	37	29	28	-5
Daniel Webster	12	25	24	24	18	+6
Downtown High School	3	5	5	5	1	-2
Excelsior Middle	---	---	---	---	27	---
Leonard Flynn	17	19	24	30	34	+17
Leadership High	40	38	37	33	30	-10
Starr King Elementary	17	16	26	27	23	+6

### Math Scores

SCHOOL difference	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	5-yr
Alvarado	53%	63%	58%	59%	66%	+13%
Buena Vista	32	40	41	29	37	+5
Daniel Webster	31	47	41	31	26	-4
Excelsior Middle	---	---	---	---	14	---
Leonard Flynn	26	31	34	42	39	+13
Starr King Elementary	26	29	34	36	34	+8

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**The last day to register to vote is October 20.**



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## Potrero Terrace

Continued from Page 19

HOPE VI. The model used – mixed-income housing and mixed-use – was considered innovative because it included new and additional high-density units, integrated residents of different incomes, and featured a Trader Joe's and Starbucks at which residents would be offered employment.

But James Tracy, Eviction Defense Network founder and long-time housing rights activist, says it took a strong, independent tenants association to ensure North Beach tenants had legal protection. During North Beach's redevelopment tenant activists collaborated with Eviction Defense Network to develop an exit contract. The Housing Authority agreed to sign the contract, fearing that if the tenants delayed the project it would lose \$23 million in HOPE VI funding. "Before North Beach it was generally one-for-one replacement of dwellings but not of extremely low-income units," Tracy said.

Angela Chu, of Chinatown Community Development Center, stressed the importance of providing

accessible information to tenants, maintaining a database of residents, and keeping in touch with temporarily relocated tenants. "What Housing Authority does is talk to people with the loudest voice who like to talk and take care of their own interests. If you don't have a strong tenants association, it makes it harder for things to be done properly," she said. "Redevelopment by itself won't change the state of the community. What we need are social programs that deal with education, drug problems, paying rent on-time, and gang violence," said Joanne Abernathy, a 40-year Hunters Point housing resident who works for Communities of Opportunities, a City-sponsored effort that focuses on Southeast San Francisco's public housing issues. "People don't stay in public housing because they want to. Housing Authority makes living in public housing a permanent situation when it's supposed to be temporary because it doesn't help with social programs, rental assistance, or helping people buy homes. Poverty will continue growing while people keep living in public housing," she added.

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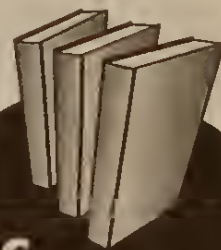
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Saturday 1 pm - 6 pm  
Sunday and Monday CLOSED



## LIBRARY NEWS

Lia Hillman, Potrero Branch Manager

Jasmin Springer, Mission Bay Children's Librarian

### Interim Services during Potrero Branch Closure

Bookmobile service is available on Tuesday from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday from 10 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. During those days and times the Bookmobile will be located at 1502 Mariposa Street on the north side, adjacent to the Jackson Recreation Center. Bookmobile services include borrowing, returning, reserving or picking up materials; obtaining or renewing library card.

Storytime for children, from birth to five years old, is Thursday at 10:30 a.m. on October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, St. Teresa's community meeting room, Connecticut and 19th streets. Enter on Connecticut Street.

### Mission Bay Library

The Mission Bay Library is located at 960 Fourth Street, at Berry, near AT&T Park. The branch is open Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays 1 to 6 p.m., Sundays 1 to 5 p.m., and closed on Mondays. Additional branch and program information can be found at <http://missionbaylibrary.blogspot.com> or by calling 355.2838. Nearby public transportation includes the N, T, 10, 30, 45, 47. Unmetered one hour parking is available a block away on Channel Street.

### Programs

The following programs are offered in the Potrero and Mission Bay neighborhoods:

Baby/Toddler Musical Lapsits: Parents, caregivers, babies, and toddlers, join us for a jolly good time of music and movement, book-sharing, bounces, finger plays, and rhymes on Thursdays and Fridays at the Mission Bay Library. Thursdays, October 9, 16, 23, 30, at 10:15 a.m.; Fridays, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 4 p.m.

Preschool Story Times: Children ages three to five will enjoy stories, music and movement, finger plays, and rhymes. Mission Bay Library, Thursdays, October 9, 16, 23, 30 at 11 a.m.

The amazing Mr. Shap will wow children of all ages with magic tricks and balloon animals. Mission Bay Library, Wednesday, October 1 at 4 p.m.

Join us in a national read-a-thon, featuring *Corduroy* by Don Freeman. Librarians throughout the nation will read the same story that day in the hopes of breaking the national record. Please join in the fun. St. Teresa's community room, Thursday, October 2 at 10:30 a.m.

Join us for a fun-filled hour of crafts for children ages two to 12. Mission Bay Library, Saturday, October 11 at 4 p.m.

Sherrie Dobrott will delight our storytime audience with her puppets, finger plays and songs; for infants and toddlers. At St. Teresa's community room, Thursday, October 30 at 10:30 a.m.

### Potrero Library Campaign

The Potrero Neighborhood Library Campaign Committee meets monthly to discuss fundraising strategies and progress. If you'd like to participate meetings are held at 6:30 p.m., usually on the third Wednesday of the month. If you'd like to join the campaign committee, please contact Tina Tom at Friends of the Library 626.7512, extension 106 or [tina.tom@friendsspl.org](mailto:tina.tom@friendsspl.org).

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# arts & ENTERTAINMENT

October 2008

## October 4 to November 2

**Theater: *My Name is Vera Cupido***  
Is death larger than life? In this poetic journey of the heart, the old world collides with the new when Vera Cupido is drawn back to Key Biscayne from her home in Portugal to mourn the anniversary of the death of her "Big Love," a man more than twice her age. Written by Stephanie Fleischmann and directed by Octavio Solís, *My Name is Vera Cupido* will play Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 5 p.m.. Tickets: \$15 to \$25. Thick House, 1695 18th Street. Information and tickets: 401.8081; [www.thickhouse.org](http://www.thickhouse.org).

## October 4

**Community: Visitation Valley Town Hall Meeting with Supervisor Sophie Maxwell**

Join District 10 Supervisor Maxwell in a community discussion about public safety, transportation, and other important issues impacting Visitation Valley. 10 a.m. to noon, Visitation Valley Community Center, 50 Raymond Avenue. Information: Emily Rogers 554.7671; [emily.rogers@sfgov.org](mailto:emily.rogers@sfgov.org).

## October 5

**Religion: Blessing of the Animals**  
Bring your dogs, cats, hamsters, rabbits, chickens and other furry, winged, and four-legged creatures to be blessed. All dogs must be leashed, and all small animals safely contained. 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., St. Gregory's Church, 500 De Haro Street.

## October 9

**Music: West African Harp**  
Hear Daniel Berkman perform live music on the Kora, a West African harp. Berkman has been playing the Kora since 1996, and blends the traditional and contemporary, acoustic and electronic. 8 p.m., Farley's Cafe, 315 18th Street. Information: [www.infinitescope.com/kora](http://www.infinitescope.com/kora).

## October 11

**Kids: Kids 'n Trees**  
Friends of the Urban Forest brings you an afternoon of entertainment for kids and adults. Hear the Sippy Cups, the Bay Area's hottest kid rock band, and listen to local author Andrea Alban Gosline read from and perform her new book *The Happiness Tree*. Participate in reclaimed art projects and enjoy fabulous organic foods and wine tasting. Tickets: \$40 and up (donation-based). 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Mission Creek Park, Channel between 4th and 5th Streets. Information: [www.fuf.net](http://www.fuf.net) or 561.6890.

## October 12

**Art & Music: Decompression - 9th Annual Heat the Street Fair**  
Every year the City's favorite freaks, artists and performers come to this Potrero Hill street party to shake off that playa dust and find a little bit of magic post-Burning Man. Come pARTicipate: build community, check-out the art, see great fire performers and dance 'til you drop. Don't forget to wear your playa finest! And come

back on October 13, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the annual neighborhood and park clean-up! \$10 donation in Black Rock Couture/Costume; \$20 in street wear; kids under 12 absolutely free! All ages outdoors; 21+ inside Cafe Cocomo. Noon to midnight, Indiana Street between Mariposa and 22nd streets. Information: [www.burningman.com](http://www.burningman.com).

## October 15 to 19

**Community: Refugee Camp in the Heart of the City**  
Doctors without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) brings its outdoor educational exhibit, *A Refugee Camp in the Heart of the City*, to San Francisco. Guided by MSF aid workers, visitors are taken on a guided tour of a refugee camp comprised of materials used by MSF in its emergency medical work around the world. Visitors are asked to imagine that they are among the millions of people fleeing violence and persecution in, for example, Somalia, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, or Sudan. Free. Allow up to an hour for the tour. Reservations are recommended for groups of 15 or more. 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Little Marina Green Park, Marina Boulevard and Yacht Harbor Road; west end of Marina Green, east of Crissy Field. Information: [www.doctorswithoutborders.org](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org).

## October 18 to 19

**Kids: Half Moon Bay Art and Pumpkin Festival**  
Now in its 38th year, the Half Moon Bay Pumpkin Festival is a memorable experience featuring massive pumpkins, remarkable pumpkin sculpting that includes a monster 1,000+ pound beast, three entertainment stages, a home-spun parade, harvest-inspired crafts, the tastiest pumpkin pie on the planet, enchanting events and contests for the whole family. Free. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Half Moon Bay, Main Street, between Miramontes and Spruce streets. Information: [www.miramarevents.com](http://www.miramarevents.com).

**Dance: San Francisco Trolly Dances**  
Climb aboard as the acclaimed San Francisco Trolley Dances travels along Third Street on the T-Line for an exciting day of modern dance. Train fare is all you need to see the best show in town, as Kim Epifano's Epiphany Productions takes audiences on a ride in the company of tour guides who will take you to four different outdoor performance sites to view pieces by some of the Bay Area's most innovative choreographers. Free with Muni Fast Pass or \$1.50 for regular adult fare. Two-hour guided tours leave every 45 minutes from 11 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Tours begin at the San Francisco Library's Mission Bay branch, 960 4th Street (at Berry). Information: 226.1139 or [www.epiphanydance.org](http://www.epiphanydance.org).

## October 18

**Community: Potrero Hill Festival**  
Join your friends and neighbors at the annual Potrero Hill Festival for a day of dance, food, art, jewelry, and kids' activities. You'll be entertained by

the music of the Apollo Jazz Group, Mestizo, the Funky Gators, Prophet Soul, Hadden & Hall and many more. Pancake breakfast from 9 to 11 a.m.! 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street.

**Family: Yerba Buena Gardens Festival**  
After you've had your pancake breakfast, and checked out the Potrero Hill Festival, amble down to Yerba Buena Gardens for more entertainment, hands-on art and science activities, games, carousel rides, climbing wall, and jump houses. Last year 20,000 San Franciscans attended. Free. 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## October 19

**Kids: Hula for Families**  
Join Patrick Makuakane and Na Lei Hulu I Ka Wakiu for an entertaining and educational one hour show, perfect for children and families. Tickets: \$10. Noon, Palace of Fine Arts Theater, 3301 Lyon Street. For more information: 647.3040; [www.naleihulu.org](http://www.naleihulu.org).

## October 25

**Pets: Farley's 18th Annual Pet Fest**  
Dress your pet in Halloween finery so they can strut their stuff at this fabulous costume parade. Get photographed at Christopher Irion's photo booth at 11 a.m., the results of which will be featured in the November View. The parade and costume judging begins at 1 p.m.; the Nancy Wright Trio will entertain with live music at 2 p.m. Best of all, the Pet Fest is a special benefit to raise funds for the Potrero Branch Library. 11 a.m. Farley's Cafe, 315 18th Street.

**Kids: 10th Anniversary Halloween Birthday Bash**  
Make this festival your Pet Fest after-party. San Francisco's hands-on multimedia museum for kids is celebrating its 10th Anniversary with an array of festivities that are fun for the whole family, including a Halloween Haunted House. Kids can create spooky videos and animations and win prizes for their costumes. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Zeum, Yerba Buena Gardens. Information: [www.zeum.org](http://www.zeum.org).

**Community: Portero Hill History Night**  
Celebrate the 9th Annual Potrero Hill History Night! Enjoy great local

food and settle in for an evening of neighborhood history, with interviews with long-time Potrero Hill residents Virginia Sustarich, Louise Petrusich and Kevin O'Connell, a Mission Creek Harbor and houseboat resident and retired harbormaster. Beautiful photos from Digital Pond will be raffled off, and Alan Pastron from Archaeo-tec will talk about his work in Mission Bay and its vanished community, Dumpville. There's always something quirky and unexpected at History Night. 6 to 9 p.m., International Studies Academy, 655 DeHaro Street at 18th Street.

## October 25 to 26

**Art: Artspan Open Studios - Potrero Hill**

Explore the art being created in your own backyard. For more than 30 years, San Francisco Open Studios has provided the public with an opportunity to see artists in their workspaces. Artspan Open Studios, which begins on October 4th, highlights Potrero Hill artists during its fourth weekend. For more information on where to get the Open Studios guide and to find details on participating artists, go to [www.artspan.org](http://www.artspan.org).

## October 29

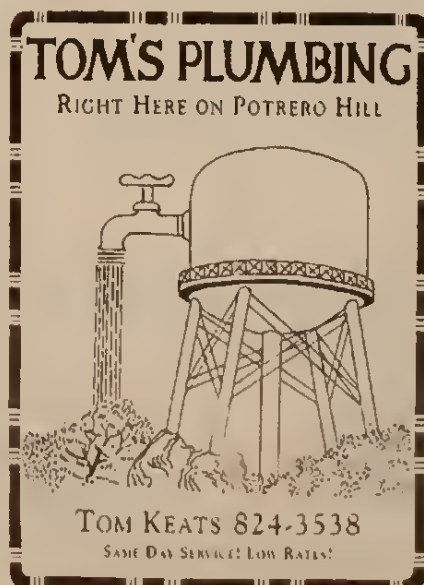
**Community: Historically Black College Information Day**  
High school junior, seniors and community college students, join City College of San Francisco, the African American Scholastic Program and the United Negro College Fund to meet representatives and alumni who can answer admissions questions about historically black colleges. Bring your transcripts and SAT scores. 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., CCSF Student Cafeteria, Ocean Campus, 50 Phelan Avenue. Information: Felita Clark, 239.3057 or [fclark@ccsf.edu](mailto:fclark@ccsf.edu).

## October 30

**Kids: Pumpkin Carving Contest**  
This Potrero Hill tradition is open to all ages. There are no rules or entry forms. Be as wacky, wild and creative as you can be! Prizes for all! All pumpkins must be submitted by Thursday at 10 p.m., Farley's Cafe, 315 18th Street.

## October 31

**Kids: Halloween Parade**  
Meet at Jackson Park at sundown for the Hill's annual trick or treat parade.





# Slow Food Nation Tests Patience, In a Healthy Way

By Kerry Fleisher

Slow Food Nation's "Come to the Table," held last month at Fort Mason, drew foodies, epicureans, and novice eaters together to taste organically and sustainably grown foods. The slow food movement, founded in the 1980's by Italian Carlo Petrini, exhorts the most impatient eaters to slow down and reconceive food as an art form, social responsibility, and culinary science. Slogans such as 'cook from scratch,' 'eat together,' and 'drink from the tap' capture a movement that's simple in theory, but a little tougher in practice, particularly when the

only thing slower than the food at the event were the lines to get to it.

Come to the Table's beauty, of course, was that it practiced what it preached: enduring a 30 minute line in order to chat with a tea sommelier, then sipping on a green tea flight, is much hipper – and more tasty – than, say, lining up for a paper cup of something at Costco. Come to the Table simulated real life shopping, providing each participant with a "slow dough" card that allowed them up to 20 food samples. Participants strolled through the Taste Pavilion, munched on flights of jam, pickles or you-name-it, sipped bio-dynamic wine, and schmoozed about all things edible while patiently waiting for the next food sample.

The Taste Pavilion featured more than a dozen types of food and drink, including fish, dry meats, coffee, ice cream, olive oil, cheese, and beer. Each booth was accompanied by informative visuals that listed the "clean" and "fair" aspects of that particular local industry. Never too heavy-handed, the signs gave participants some food for thought while stomachs growled. The salumipedia at the charcuterie, for example (which "juxtaposes process and product"), allowed meat-eaters to trace the origins of their dried meat. At the honey and preserves booths, one could even meet the chefs: bees from the Sebastopol were proudly presented next to their product.

The chocolate booth volunteers first discussed the fermentation and drying stages of cacao beans to tasters, and then offered a chocolate plate with bits of chocolate pre- and post-processing. At the spirit booth, those concerned about drinking too heavily on the weekends were invited to reconsider spirits as "an economic vehicle that allows farmers to preserve their crop...and diversify their income." Cucumber vodka mojitos drove that point home. The pickle and chutney booth was a consistent favorite, dishing out slices of fermented, dill, and sour pickles from such independent pickle-producing heroes as "Jenny Jack," "Charlene," and "Papa Pat."

The food samples were creative enough to please the most callous of eaters. One popular jam consisted of white nectarine, elderflower, and green almonds. The fish sample plate included braised calamari with coriander and chick peas, a sardine crostini, and albacore with eggplant-chorizo ragout. At the biodynamic wine booth, sommeliers discussed the ins and outs of "detox for vineyards," while one Mendocino wine producer talked about how cows are ideal for keeping up a field's nitrogen levels, and how sheep make great, sustainable tractors, an important skill to have around if a farm is attempting to go biodynamic. The Food Pavilion also included two

booths of native foods, serving Native American organic bison and corn posole, and Indian naan breads.

Come to the Table attempted to dispel taboos about food, its origins, and the food industry in general. The charcuterie booth, subtitled "nose to tail eating," played videotapes from the hanging room; showcased meat artwork; and displayed posters of cows' anatomy with its corresponding food products. At the fish section, the representative from Alaska's "Save Our Wild Salmon" organization spoke candidly (when provoked) about food politics, particularly in light of his governor's recent leap into the national stage. "It's a catch-22 about Sarah Palin. We're all glad she's leaving, but then again, she might take over the country," he said, noting that "she has always given away any fishing industry to the highest bidder."

With a mostly well-heeled crowd filling up the pavilion – the price of admission started at \$40 – the slow foods movement seems to be expanding beyond a small niche of food connoisseurs and devotees to incorporate a more mainstream and ready-to-adapt audience. One volunteer who manned the compost, recycled, and trash bins noted that "everyone is using the compost. I don't even know why we have a trash bin here."



David Harriman Potrero Hill artist  
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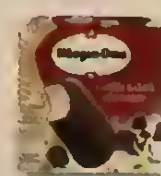
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